

Unity or death, north Yemenis say

SANAA (AFP) — Northern Yemenis are branding break-away southern leaders as traitors and infidels in songs and sermons, as they vow to press on to final victory despite the south's stubborn resistance.

Sermons broadcast by religious leaders in Sanaa urge Yemenis to pray for the destruction of the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) led by Ali Salem Al Beidh. "God, help us destroy the Socialists. Turn their weapons of destruction against them. Bring misery to any country that harms us," declared Mohammad Hussein Amer, one of the country's most widely respected Islamic authorities, on national radio.

At a large family gathering building contractor Mohammad Rowdy, 60, said he, his two wives and 21 children were prepared to die for Yemeni unity, which was forged between North and South Yemen in May 1990. "In a couple of days we will have defeated Aden (the southern stronghold)," he said confidently, sipping ghrir, a traditional Yemeni drink made from coffee bean husks and ginger.

"If the whole world wants to bomb us after that, they can go ahead. I don't care and we're not afraid. Unity or death. Those are the only two options."

He said he was ready to fight and had sent his eldest son Ahmad, 32, to the front. He had also sent home-made bread to the northern troops. Ahmad was involved in heavy fighting three weeks

ago for the Al Anad military base, 60 kilometres north of Aden.

"I saw lots of brothers killed," he said, now sitting with his relatives. "It was awful, but I'm ready to go back and fight again. God is great and God will provide."

He then broke into a song he had written: "This is your night, Beidh, your party is gone, your party is not Yemen. On Ali, son of Salem, how many bodies are on your conscience? When you talk you are polite but in reality you are a liar. Lies, lies, you are not Yemeni."

Although the song was written in January, before the civil war erupted here in May, it has become more popular than ever among his neighbours and friends, he said.

Many residents of Sanaa acknowledge the hardships caused by the war, but seem determined to win it to maintain Yemeni unity.

Sabri Saleem, director of a language school, said he had "completely forgotten about this year in terms of my business."

Most of his Arabic students fled the country soon after the war started.

"But it's better to suffer now than to accept the long-term destruction that the end of unity will mean," he insisted.

Mohammad Rowdy complained that "there's no cement for building any more, and I know a lot of people who are worried."

"We pray and we know that God will provide," he added.



HOMELESS: This family is the first group of civilians to use the road behind Darulaman Palace (at rear) in south Kabul on Sunday. The family is part of an exodus of scores of frightened civilians leaving their homes due to the factional fighting. Darulaman Palace was seized by forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani on Saturday from the rival group led by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar (AFP photo)

Mandate not renewed for Hebron observers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The international observers in the West Bank town of Hebron will be permanently pulled out by the second week of August, Israeli Radio said Saturday.

Representatives of Norway, Denmark and Italy, the countries whose forces are deployed in Hebron, met in Rome last week and agreed not to renew the three-month mandate of the 116-member force, the radio said.

Israel and the Palestinians agreed to the stationing of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) to calm the city, rocked by widespread clashes after the mosque shooting in which

Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein killed more than 30 Muslim worshippers.

The agreement on their May 8 deployment also allowed suspended peace talks to proceed, culminating in the May 19 start of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"Our term expires on Aug. 8 and we haven't heard anything so I can't confirm or deny the report," said Bjarno Sorensen, TIPH spokesman in Hebron. "We are very anxious to know something."

Hebron Palestinians initially welcomed the international observers, who stood out in their crisp white and red uniforms. But they soon began

complaining that the observers lacked the weapons or strong mandate to protect them.

Jewish settlers opposed their presence since they believed it undermined Israeli control over the town.

In Hebron Saturday, four months after the massacre, the site of the massacre is still closed to Jews and Arabs.

Residents were waiting for Sunday's publication of an Israeli inquiry into the Feb. 25 massacre. The five-member commission is not seeking criminal indictments, but Hebron residents are hoping its rulings will lead to better security arrangements for them.

"What I hope for regarding the settlers is that they be prevented from having any contact with us," Nadar Mustafa imas told Israel Television.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natche said he expects the commission to acknowledge army negligence regarding its protection of the Muslim worshippers at the mosque.

According to reports leaked to the Israeli press, the inquiry found that Goldstein acted alone, and it criticised senior army officers for ignoring intelligence warnings about possible violence by Jewish extremists against Palestinians.

Rabin sticking to habits despite failing mid-terms

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a mid-term assessment, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he will plow forward with his peace policies despite receiving an "F" from the public in a poll released Saturday.

Mr. Rabin also promised to concentrate efforts on domestic issues such as education, housing and economic development.

He acknowledged the failure to reach one digit inflation, already forecasted at 12 per cent this year. But he said he would aim for less than 10 per cent by the end of his present term in 1996.

"I'm at peace with myself over what we have accomplished during the past two years," Mr. Rabin said in a radio interview broadcast Saturday.

Reaching the halfway point in Mr. Rabin's four-year term, a poll released Saturday gave his Labour-led government a grade of 5.3 out of

10. The poll carried out by the Haifa University statistics department and paid for by state-owned Israel Radio, also found that 29 per cent polled preferred Mr. Rabin as premier.

Opposition Likud Party head Benjamin Netanyahu received 14 per cent and eight per cent wanted to see Mr. Rabin's partner and sometimes nemesis Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, lead the country.

The telephone poll questioned 650 randomly chosen Israeli adults on Wednesday and pollster Avner Halevi said it had a two per cent margin of error.

"Polls are only significant before elections. I am sticking to the policies I believe in," Mr. Rabin said. "It doesn't matter what they say in the polls."

Mr. Rabin himself interpreted the poll as a sign the

government had to make more of an effort to expose what he saw as its successes.

"This is a revolutionary government. Whether or not people like it is another question. But it has done some pretty dramatic things. In these conditions such a low grade makes me doubt whether these people polled read the papers," said Nachum Barnea, a political analyst for Yediot Ahronot, Israel's largest daily.

Mr. Rabin said he will continue his quest for peace with Israel's neighbours in his remaining two years in office. He cited the progress with the Palestinians, who signed an accord for limited self-rule in the occupied territories, which has already been implemented in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"I view what we have accomplished as a great opening to the world which enables Israel to implement

its economic potential," Mr. Rabin said.

He said that efforts were being made to progress the talks with Jordan. The gaps remain wide with the Syrians, he noted, but hoped a trip by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region next month would narrow them.

Mr. Rabin praised President Bill Clinton and Mr. Christopher for trying to bridge the gaps without pushing their own proposals.

The interview with Mr. Rabin was recorded on Friday and broadcast on Saturday. Mr. Rabin had initially intended to hold a Saturday morning radio call-in programme, but cancelled it after a religious party he is trying to woo into his coalition disapproved saying it was a violation of the Sabbath.

Observant Jews are forbidden from using electricity on the Sabbath.

Kuwaiti parliament 'upgrades' some people

KUWAIT (AP) — In a highly charged session, parliament Saturday passed by an overwhelming majority a government bill granting some sons of naturalised Kuwaitis the right to vote or stand for office.

The decision expanded the electorate by almost a third. But the vast majority of Kuwait's adult population, including all of its women, still do not have the right to vote.

The population of Kuwait is 1.3 million people, of which 640,000 are nationals and the rest, foreigners.

In the conservative, oil-rich Gulf Arab countries, Kuwait's parliament is the only one chosen by popular election, albeit from a very small electorate.

The bill was passed 44-0, with one abstention. It applies only to those born to fathers who already possessed Kuwaiti nationality.

The number of citizens who benefit from the new law is estimated to range between 18,000 and 40,000. They will be upgraded to "first-grade citizenship" and thus be allowed to vote and contest elections, if over 21.

Until now, only 82,000 citizens, all men, had voting rights. Only citizens who can trace their ancestry in Kuwait prior to 1920 were considered first-class citizens. Kuwait became independent in 1961.

Several deputies argued that though this law was a step in the right direction, it fell short of the demand for full equality. Parliament members who supported the measure said during the debate that passing this law strengthened democracy and enhanced stability and security in the country.

"During the (Iraqi) invasion, the blood and sweat of all Kuwaitis mixed in opposing the invasion," said National Assembly member Abdul Mohsen Jamal.

The law still gives the government the right to withdraw the citizenship of any of those sons for various reasons.

The only deputy who opposed the bill, Abdul Aziz Al Adasani, said some Kuwaitis acquired the citizenship by deceiving the authorities with false information. "What is built on false basis remains false," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Damascus Declaration meeting postponed

CAIRO (AFP) — A meeting of the eight members of the Damascus Declaration to discuss the Yemen civil war has been postponed indefinitely, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source said Saturday. The meeting of foreign ministers of member states was to be held on Monday in Kuwait. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah informed his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa that the meeting had been postponed to a new date yet to be fixed, the source said. No reason was given for the postponement. The declaration was signed in March 1991 between Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates following the Gulf war.

Senior Turkish human rights official quits

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's minister of state for human rights resigned Saturday to protest against the perceived unwillingness of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's right-wing True Path Party (DYP) to create a human rights ministry. Anatolia news agency said, Mehmet Kahraman's resignation marked an escalation in troubles plaguing the junior partner in the two-and-a-half-year-old governing coalition, the leftist Social-Democratic People's Party (SHP) ruling in tandem with Ms. Ciller's DYP. Analysts said the resignation might bring on a crisis that could ultimately split the coalition. The creation of the ministry "is very important for the future of Turkish democracy" and was "planned for in a protocol concluded on the formation of the coalition government with the DYP," Mr. Kahraman said after he handed a letter of resignation to Deputy Prime Minister and SHP Chairman Murat Karayalcin. In the letter, he charged that the DYP's "negative attitude" during debates in parliament made it impossible to set up a rights ministry. He did not elaborate. Mr. Kahraman also quit as deputy general-secretary of the SHP. About 10 of the SHP's 54 members of parliament oppose remaining in the coalition because they consider the DYP is preventing a programme of democratisation, promised by the SHP, from going ahead. Mr. Karayalcin wants the party to remain in the government.

Cyprus, Malta close to entering EU

CORFU, Greece (AFP) — Cyprus and Malta are close to entering the European Union (EU), leaders said at the end of a two-day summit meeting here. Welcoming "significant progress" in their applications to join the 12-nation bloc, the European heads of government said "an essential stage in the preparation could be regarded as completed." Greek European Affairs Minister Theodoros Pangalos welcomed this "new step" in the accession of Cyprus to the European Union, after the enlargement of the union to include Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden on Jan. 1, 1995. Only Austria out of these countries is certain to enter the union after its electorate approved the initiative in a referendum on June 12. French President Francois Mitterrand said Saturday "the negotiators say that we are making progress towards the accession" of Cyprus which in 1990 applied to join the union. The day before the summit, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu organised a meeting here with Greek Cypriot President Glafos Clerides, European Commission President Jacques Delors and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Last year, the European Commission said a political solution would have to be found to the division of Cyprus before it could start formal procedures to enter the European Union.

Sharp drop in drugs hauls in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi customs announced on Sunday a sharp drop in drugs seizures in the past 12 months saying the fall resulted from tough penalties imposed on traffickers. The head of the Saudi customs service Hamad Ben Ibrahim Reshudi said 162 kilograms of drugs had been seized in the 12 months up to June, compared with 315 kilograms found in the same period up to June 1993. He told the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) the fall was also due to improvements in anti-narcotics measures. Since 1987 Saudi Arabia has imposed the death penalty on drug traffickers, dealers and hardened users. The interior ministry has announced dozens of executions of drug traffickers each year. Reshudi said the customs service had benefited from training programmes and better technology for detecting drugs.

Iran to build large dam in Khuzestan

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has contracted out construction of what it says will be the biggest concrete hydroelectric dam in the country at a cost of 800 billion rials (\$457 million). A 205-metre high dam on the Karun River in the western province of Khuzestan, about 500 kilometres south of Tehran, will be "one of the most ambitious hydro-electric projects in Iran," said the Islamic Republic News Agency. A contract was signed Saturday with the Sabir Company, which is affiliated to the energy ministry, to build the dam, said the agency's dispatch monitored in Nicosia. The dam will store 2.75 billion cubic metres of water in a basin 60 kilometres long, according to the dispatch, which did not give the expected energy output of the dam.

Qatar Airways starts Abu Dhabi flights

ABU DHABI (AP) — Qatar Airways on Saturday launched its inaugural flight from Qatar to Abu Dhabi, underlining its determination to compete with the more established regional airlines. Barely six months old, Qatar Airways is to operate once-weekly flights to the United Arab Emirates capital, routed through Dubai. The flight 07-203, captained by Sheikh Hamad Al Thani, chief executive officer of the airline, landed in the capital from Dubai. The plane later left for Doha, en route to London's Gatwick airport, its first Western European destination.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Starcom
17:41 L'Ecole Des Funs
18:00 Beaudouin
18:30 News in French
18:45 The Weekly Sports Magazine
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 The Nanny
21:10 The Climate Change
22:00 News in English
22:15 G.P.
22:45 World Cup Soccer Match Bolivia vs. Spain

PRAYER TIMES
05:52 Fajr
05:57 Sunrise
12:30 Dhuhr
16:19 Asr
19:50 Maghreb
21:25 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish Tel. 810741
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraced Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 63543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 20 / 32
Aqaba 26 / 29
Diserts 18 / 34
Jordan Valley 24 / 37
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Aqaba 34 Humidity.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 19 per cent. Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Hisham Kan'an 740296
Dr. Walid Maari 675495
Dr. Mohammad Omran 612232
Dr. Mousli Mazahreh 620420
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Al Asma pharmacy 637053
Najrouh pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Shmeisani pharmacy 644945
Najrouh pharmacy 628672
Najih pharmacy 847632

ERZID: Dr. Ali Makhmouh 272102
Maqod pharmacy 731101

ZARQA: Dr. Mousbah Hejazi 981217
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES Food
Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Fire Brigade 691228
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 643402
Highway Police 696391
Police Security Department 69521
Hotel Complaints 695941
Price Complaints 66117h
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 910230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 691101
Jordan Electricity Authority 631017

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53301
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53301

HOSPITALS
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre R1381/322
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281h
Aklich Maternity, J. Amn. 64341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhus, J. Amman 636141
Polestine, Shmeisani 641714
Shmeisani Hospital 689131
Univer. Hospital 845845
Al-Musasher Hospital 6672274
The Islamic, Abdali 661646
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6617073
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09983323
Ibn Sina Hospital 09980561
Al Hama Modern Hospital 09986732
AQABA: Prince Haya Hospital 06314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:00 Damascus (RU)
09:15 Beirut (RU)
09:30 Jeddah (RU)
10:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RU)
10:15 Riyadh (RU)
10:30 Abu Dhabi (RU)
11:00 Beirut (RU)
11:00 New Delhi (RU)
11:55 Cairo (RU)
12:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
12:00 New York, Amsterdam (RU)
12:15 Doha (RU)
12:30 Bangkok (RU)
12:31 Colombo, Tunis (RU)
12:45 Moscow (RU)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
11:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

15:00 Sanaa (YM)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
20:20 Cairo (MS)
21:30 Dubai (EM)
01:30 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Beirut (RU)
12:00 Doha (RU)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RU)
12:15 London (RU)
12:25 Frankfurt (RU)
12:45 Cairo (RU)
14:35 Moscow (RU)
16:00 Bahrain, Doha (RU)
21:00 Sanaa (YM)
21:45 Damascus (RU)
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RU)
22:30 Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RU)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:00 Istanbul (TA)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:00 Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
16:00 Sanaa (YM)
21:15 Cairo (RU)
21:30 Doha (RU)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman R/R every Monday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 450 / 350
Apricot 800 / 700
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 600
Carrot 140 / 90
Cobza 1200 / 600
Cherry 1300 / 800
Cauliflower 1200 / 600
Cucumbers (large) 80 / 40
Eggplant 170 / 100
Fig 140 / 70
Grape 450 / 350
Lemon 600 / 400
Marrow (large) 440 / 300
Marrow (small) 170 / 100
Mulkiah 1200 / 600
Okra 800 / 400
Orange (dry) 420 / 320
Onion (dry) 170 / 90
Sweet corn 360 / 250
Pepper (dry) 200 / 150
Pepper (sweet) 360 / 250
Potato 380 / 250
Pumpkin 600 / 350
Tomato 130 / 70
String beans 550 / 350
Watermelon 100 / 50



MISSION IN MOROCCO: Her Royal Highness Princess Rahmah Bint Al Hassan (R) Sunday is seen off at the airport by Princess Sarvath. Princess Rahmah left for Morocco to represent Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at the meetings of the Arab Thought Forum General Assembly, which starts in Rabat today under the patronage of King Hassan II of Morocco. The three-day meetings will discuss the deteriorating Arab situations and means

of building Arab solidarity following the recent events in the Arab World. Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi will read Prince Hassan's speech to the meeting. The Jordanian delegation to the meetings includes Princess Wijdan Ali, Planning Minister Hisham Khatib, Senator Leila Sharaf, Isa'am Mufti, Zuhair Khoury, Taber Kanaan, Albert Boutros and Mohammad Adnan Bakhit.

Tanker collision kills drivers

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two drivers Saturday were killed when their tankers collided on the Rweished Desert Highway, 70 kilometres east of Rweished town, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) and police reports.

According to the report, one tanker was carrying crude oil and the other water. The driver of the water tanker, Juma M. Sultan died instantly, the report said. The other driver, Mohammad Eid was burnt beyond recognition when his tanker was engulfed by fire.

At Al Rweished Military Hospital, where the victims were taken, the attending doctor said the water tanker driver died of fractures to the skull, and the other driver from the first degree

burns. A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the fire completely destroyed the crude oil tanker. He explained that the CDD will not be able to remove the tanker from the road for about two days because of the danger of continued fire.

This is the second such incident in the past week. On June 19, two men were also killed in a blaze when their tanker filled with crude oil went out of control, rolled over and was totally burnt. The two victims were trapped inside the tanker.

As of Sunday evening, police were still unable to release further details of the latest accident and said they were investigating the incident.

Accident kills child
Meanwhile, also on

Saturday, a seven-year-old Irbid boy was killed after a 2-metre home water tank fell on him, a police report said.

According to one of the boy's relatives, the victim, Amer Mahmoud, was playing with some children near the water tank during a wedding, the tank accidentally fell on Amer killing him instantly.

The child was rushed to Princess Basma Hospital but was declared dead on arrival. Police gave no details as to where the tank was situated and how it had fallen. The report indicated that the authorities are investigating the incident.

AMO to discuss Lebanon's 'breach' of accord

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) board meets today to discuss a "breach" by Lebanon of an agreement with Jordan on the exchange of agricultural produce, according to AMO Director General Salem Al Lawzi.

Dr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times Sunday that Lebanon breached an annual agreement on the exchange of produce in its decision to stop all imports of Jordanian watermelon ahead of the date agreed to in the accord.

Under the agreement signed by the two sides last September, watermelons from Jordan are to be allowed into Lebanon until June 20 each year, but the

Lebanese authorities halted the process as of June 1, 1994, claiming that Lebanon has started producing sufficient amounts of melons for its markets.

Lebanon's move has prompted Jordan to stop importing Lebanese cherries and apricot for the current season, said Dr. Lawzi who added he was confident that the summer stoppages of agricultural exchanges would not adversely affect regular trade between the two countries.

Each year Jordan exports up to 60,000 tonnes of agricultural produce to Lebanon especially during winter and imports 15,000 tonnes of crops grown in Lebanon, especially apples, when the Jordanian markets lack sufficient quanti-

ties of this fruit, Dr. Lawzi said.

The meeting today, which is to be chaired by Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif, could speed up the convening of the joint Jordanian-Lebanese committee charged with organising trade exchanges and which usually meets in September, Dr. Lawzi added.

Referring to trade with other Arab states, Dr. Lawzi said Jordanian vegetables and fruits continue to be exported to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other Gulf states, but, he said, Saudi Arabia still refuses to buy Jordanian vegetables although it continues to import Jordanian fruits.

After a temporary halt to imports of Jordanian agri-

cultural products in the wake of the Gulf war, most Arab Gulf states resumed their imports except for Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia, which until the Gulf crisis imported 70 per cent of Jordan's annual agricultural exports of around 500,000 tonnes, turned back several vegetable trucks in 1992 after it said that random tests on the produce showed a high level of pollutants.

Referring to trade with the occupied Arab territories, Dr. Lawzi said the institution of the self-rule government in Gaza and Jericho has changed nothing with regard to regulations governing the entry of Palestinian produce into the Kingdom.

Jordan usually allows 50 per cent of the total

amount of vegetables and fruit grown in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into Jordan, said Dr. Lawzi.

Some of these products find their way to the local markets, but the largest part is exported to Gulf states via Jordan, according to Dr. Lawzi.

He said all shipments of vegetables and fruits entering Jordan should carry certificates of origin as proof they come from Arab lands.

Since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, he added, not a single item produced in Jordan was marketed in the occupied Arab territories.

He said the open bridges policy adopted by the Kingdom since 1967 is designed to help enhance the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

Seminar addresses transport sector ills

AMMAN (Petra) — Until 1989 Jordan's transport sector contributed to about 12 per cent of the gross national product (GNP), but the consequences of the Gulf crisis have dealt it a hard blow causing a major retreat in activities, according to Transport Minister Samir Kavar.

Addressing a seminar organised Sunday by the Ministry of Transportation in cooperation with local transport firms, Mr. Kavar said the siege on Aqaba imposed since the Gulf war together with the interception and inspection of Aqaba-bound vessels have reduced by at least 32 per cent the total volume of loading and unloading or handling operations at Aqaba harbour. This situation, he said, has caused

severe damage to the land transport operations conducted mainly by Jordanian transport companies.

The losses to the transport sector are estimated of \$500 million, Mr. Kavar said. Jordan's transport companies operate nearly 9,000 trucks, said the minister.

He added that the Jordanian transport sector has, over the past decade, been adversely affected by wars and political and economic developments.

A working paper presented by Tawfiq Kavar, president of the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association (JSAA), called for boosting the present Jordanian fleet of trucks to cope with the expected increases in the volume of goods arriving in Aqaba.



Minister of Transportation Samir Kavar Sunday addresses a seminar on

Jordan's transport sector, including problems and solutions (Petra photo)

The JSAA chief said that according to regulations merchants pay heavy fees, fines and extra charges for goods lying in the harbour awaiting clearance or transportation.

Mohammad Abu Hasweh, chairman of the Jordanian truck owners association said

the transport sector suffers from chaos resulting from ill-planning and the excess of axial weights which cause heavy damage to roads.

In another paper, presented by Hamdi Habashneh, director of the Jordan-Syria

Land Transport Company, Mr. Habashneh suggested that regulations concerning transport charges be re-examined and stricter rules be introduced to prevent extra weights that cause damage to roads.

Jordan's pharmaceutical industry takes a lead Arab slot

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's pharmaceutical industry has taken a leading position in the Arab World in manufacturing and exporting its products and is considered the third most important hard currency earner after potash and phosphate since the industry was first established three decades ago.

Although Egypt was the first country in the region to set up a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant, Jordan is now considered a pioneer in the field. Already, some of the local plants are beginning to manufacture their own raw materials for some of the medicines, a venture that has not yet been accomplished in the Middle East.

So far there are five established plants in the country and four new ones are being built. Last year figures show total exports reached JD 56 million, according to Adnan Kilani, pharmacist at the Union of Arab Manufacturers of Pharmaceutical and Medical Appliances.

The companies export about 75 per cent of their products mainly to the Arab countries, but also to Europe, Russia and the United States.

Two of the industries, Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals and Dar Al Dawa Development and Investment Company, exported \$41 million and \$17 million respectively in 1993.

Since it first began production in 1979, Al Hikma has penetrated the markets of neighbouring countries including Saudi Arabia, a competitive and free market oriented country as well as north Africa, eastern Europe, Europe and the U.S., Al Hikma Vice President Ali Al Husry said.

It has wholly owned subsidiaries in Jordan, Portugal and the U.S. as well as representative offices in Bratislava, Beijing, Tunis, Cairo and Moscow.

Hikma Pharmaceuticals, the 4,800 square metre plant near Lisbon, is designed to be the centre for exporting to the European countries and will specialise in manufacturing injectibles, a more complex drug form to manufacture, according to Mr. Husry.

The plant was established in 1989 in accordance with the requirements of the Portuguese government, the European Union (EU) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Al Hikma moved into the U.S. market in 1991 when it acquired West-Ward, an American phar-

maceutical company. It is being developed as the U.S. marketing arm of its sister factories in Portugal and Jordan and will also sell to Hikma markets outside the U.S., Mr. Husry said.

"We have proven our success in every market we entered in. This is why we are confident we will be able to penetrate all the markets within our strategy," said Mr. Husry.

He said the annual turnover of the subsidiary groups totalled \$60 million last year. Hikma aims to strengthen and consolidate their subsidiaries and joint ventures and aspires to become a global player in the near future, Mr. Husry added.

In 1992 Hikma Investments established a joint venture with Ibn Al Bityar of Tunisia, producing cephalosporins (immune suppressants) and penicillin (anti-infective) under the Hikma name for the Tunisian market and French-speaking countries of north and west Africa.

Under a manufacturing agreement with an Egyptian firm, Kahira Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industries Company, Hikma is providing technical support for the manufacture and marketing of selected products to the Egyptian market, the single

largest in the Arab World.

Another joint venture currently in its development stage is the establishment of an affiliate factory, in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Husry said.

One of the most important breakthroughs for Jordan has been the possibility to locally manufacture the raw materials needed for certain drugs.

Hikma Chem, a fully-owned subsidiary, has begun to manufacture raw materials required for cephalosporins.

With the purchase of a majority share in Arab Medical Containers, Hikma Chem has also produced health care related plastics, such as plastic containers and child resistant caps.

Other pharmaceutical companies like Dar Al Dawa have also started synthesising their own nifedipine, an anti-hypertensive agent.

"We used to import the necessary raw material for nifedipine from Switzerland until 1993," according to Fouad Habash, material manager at the plant. "We hope within a few years to manufacture four of the five most important molecules," he said.

Although Dr. Habash could not disclose the names, he said that in the coming few months one or

two of the molecular ingredients will be announced. "All the results are promising," he added.

Dar Al Dawa currently manufactures 40 products in 100 different dosage forms and exports to the Middle East including the Gulf states.

It also exports to North Africa, Continental Africa, Eastern Europe and the Far East.

The company hopes to move into Egypt and Algeria, two of the regional markets it has not yet penetrated, Dr. Habash said.

Although Egypt, Morocco and Syria also manufacture medicines, the Jordanian industry is ahead in the game, according to Dr. Kilani, from the union whose purpose is to help develop the industry in the Arab World.

Four new pharmaceutical firms are currently under construction in Jordan.

One such company, Middle East Pharmaceuticals Industry, with a total capital of \$15 million, will begin production by January 1996 and will export to the Arab World, Africa and the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Walid Smadi, the company's general manager, said all drug forms will be manufactured for local and

international consumption at the 7,000 square metre plant in Amman.

"We are not going to compete (with other local companies) but expand by increasing the items that are not manufactured here," he said.

For the first two years the raw materials needed to produce these drugs will be imported from Europe, but Mr. Smadi said he hopes to manufacture the needed materials locally after that.

Like all the companies, Middle East Pharmaceuticals Industry will comply with the Ministry of Health Technical Committee regulations, parallel to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations.

The pharmaceutical companies in operation now undertake bio-equivalency studies; clinical studies that ensure the finished products meet international standards and match major world brands.

According to Mr. Husry, Hikma follows the FDA regulations and the Portugal plant complies with them.

Although the companies in Jordan are not FDA approved yet, Hikma, Dar Al Dawa and the recently established Middle East Pharmaceuticals are planning to apply for the approval.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Film entitled "Un Coeur En Hiver" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by poets Qusay Al Labadi and Ziyad Anani at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:30 p.m.

THIRD YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL

★ Drama in Arabic entitled "Sizif and Death" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of Jordanian-made furniture at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and 4:00-11:00 p.m.).

★ Plastic art exhibition by Khaleel Al Bdour at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Plastic art exhibition by Abdullah Abu Asali and Issam Nseirat at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Al Ain Art Gallery —

Wadi Sagra (Tel. 644451)

★ Painting exhibition by Naila Deeb at the Goethe-Institut.

★ Art exhibition entitled "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition" by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of works by several Arab artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition by artist Mohammad Fradi at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 626932).

★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjour at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).

★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Sham'oun at Darat Al Fuman of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

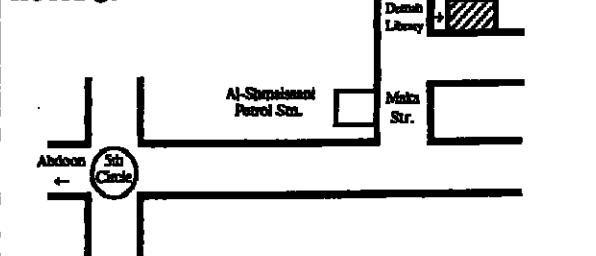
★ Photography exhibit entitled "Faces of Jordan" at the American Center.

★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery in Mecca Street.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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Jordan Times: صحيفة يوردان نيوز، مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6611716, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661813

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
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Nothing happens in a vacuum

IN THE early morning of Feb. 25, Baruch Goldstein, a Jewish settler from the settlement of Kiryat Arba near Hebron, went into the Ibrahimi Mosque armed with an assault rifle, a bag of ammunition and wearing a marksman's protective head set. In a few minutes he opened fire at Muslim worshippers kneeling for the early morning prayer. More than 30 people were killed and dozens injured. Goldstein fired more than 100 bullets before he was hacked to death by worshippers at the mosque, a site sacred for Muslims and Jews.

The massacre led to a break in the Middle East peace talks, a condemnation from the U.N. Security Council and deployment of international observers in Hebron.

While Goldstein was awarded a martyr burial by Jewish extremists and settlers, the Israeli government, which condemned the massacre, appointed a high-level commission to investigate killings.

The commission heard testimony from Israeli guards at the mosque at the time of the massacre and from high-ranking Israeli officials. The testimonies revealed, among other things, the fact that Israeli soldiers had standing orders not to shoot at settlers even "if they were shooting at worshippers," as one soldier testified. At the time, Dan Briksman of the Association of Civil Rights in Israel protested that "it cannot be that there is one law for an Arab and one law for a Jew." Betselem, the leading Israeli human rights group, concluded that "Goldstein's act did not take place in a vacuum." Betselem said that out of 48 cases of Palestinians killed by Israeli settlers between 1988 and 1992 only 12 cases made it to the courts.

The leading daily Haaretz blamed the army and said the commission report would expose "an unprecedented chain of failures, lack of discipline, negligence and mistakes" by the army. But Haaretz was only optimistic. The commission exonerated everybody, the army, the establishment and the settlers, and laid the blame on Goldstein alone.

The fact that occupation itself is the source of the conflict, the settlement fuels it and the settlers, armed and dangerous, are the culprits did not figure high in the Israeli commission's report. The Israeli army, the tormentor of the Palestinian population, came out scot free. The army chief said he was pleased of the commission's findings.

Well, the Israeli establishment might not want to admit that the occupation, the army and the settlers are all to be blamed for the massacre and the ongoing killings among Palestinians and Israelis alike. But that conclusion has already become a conviction not only within the Arab World and among the Palestinians but also among the Israelis themselves. What the commission should have done is look at the massacre as part of the conflict as a whole not only as an isolated incident in a vacuum.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL Shaab daily Sunday warned the Yemeni people and their leaderships that foreign forces in addition to the United Nations were about to interfere in their own affairs and said that should this happen, it would not be in the interest of Aden or Sanaa. Referring to the U.S. warning to Sanaa to stop shelling Aden, the paper said that this could be a prelude to debating the Yemeni question at the U.N. Security Council prior to imposing sanctions on the two parts of Yemen, thus dealing a heavy blow to the Yemeni people and their aspirations. Urging an immediate ceasefire and dialogue to prepare the ground for peace, the paper said the leadership in Sanaa and Aden would be exposing their nation to economic sanctions should they stick to their adamant stands. Saying that at least 15 Arab countries have now expressed desire to recognise the South Yemen state, the paper said that the scenario is being readied now for foreign intervention, especially in the wake of the collapse of the U.N. envoy Lakhdar Al Ibrahim's mission in Yemen. The paper said that it has become necessary for the leaderships in Sanaa and Aden to meet and end their differences and so avert disaster to the nation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour Sunday criticised the government's attitude with regard to the Jordanian political parties claiming that the government was dealing with the parties on the basis of the strength of their members and not as constitutionally recognised entities. Mohammad Subeishi said that it has become clear now that the government has allowed the political parties to appear not in line with the concept of creating political pluralism but rather as a showcase of democracy. Accusing the government of showing respect to the parties only in proportion to their membership, the writer said this attitude is not conducive to democracy nor can it help create an atmosphere that would help expand the government's popularity base in Jordan. The writer said the government should realise that despite their limited memberships at the moment, political parties have a very wide base and strong support by the public, should the government organise a referendum, he said, it would find that the parties represent 99 per cent of the people of Jordan.

Human Rights File

Blurred guidelines for promotion at human rights

By Waleed Sadi

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton decision a few weeks ago to delink China's human rights record from its quest for a Most Favoured Nation status may have been some kind of a shocker. Many human rights activists both in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world have been repeatedly pressing for establishing a direct link between Beijing human rights situation and normal trade and commerce relations with Washington. During last year's Vienna human rights conference, the participants were almost evenly split between those who saw an even organic relationship between human rights and economic and social development and those who viewed the promotion of civil and political rights independently of the development of economic rights. What emerged from the Vienna meeting was a balance between the two views. But participating countries were in disagreement on the idea of delinking trade and commerce as tools to influence the respect for human rights in the world with the developing countries openly defiant of any such stance.

In the wake of Washington decision not to use the trade card to promote human rights in one of the most populous countries in the world, which also happens to be a permanent member of the Security Council, offers another opportunity to reflect further on the subject. Yet before a debate can be kicked off by the precedent created by President Clinton on China, it would be fair to say at the outset that the special international power of Beijing had a lot to do with Washington's decision on how to treat the alleged Chinese human rights violations. Mr. Clinton had more than human rights on his mind when he decided to delink the relationship between trade and human rights with regard to Beijing.

The U.S. president was nursing a grave conflict with North Korea and he wanted all the support that he could muster from the Chinese leadership in a bid to avoid an armed conflict in the Korean Peninsula. The Chinese also offer one of the biggest single markets to the U.S. In short the White House was being pragmatic about its search for ways and means to improve the human rights condition in China.

But putting aside for the moment the Chinese precedent as not necessarily binding, it is still pertinent to reconsider the relationship between human rights and other policy tools including the trade carrot or stick. We have repeatedly seen how Washington can be selective in pursuing its human rights policy towards the international community. When it came to Iraq, for example, there was no hesitation to make normalisation of relations with it contingent on a dramatic improvement of the human rights situation. We have seen Washington applying double standards elsewhere in the world, notably in Latin America, Africa and Asia in pursuing its human rights goals on a global basis. The picture that emerges from the Chinese example is therefore nothing to go by in terms of guidance or setting a clear and coherent insight on which the other countries of the world can depend for policy determination on human rights.

Still the real issue of changing human rights records of nations remains the subject of serious debate. Should powerful nations use their clout and power to influence other countries whose human rights record leaves much to be desired? If so, to what extent such mighty nations should go to realise such policy guidelines and objectives? We have seen how the U.S. has sought to have the U.N. Security Council adopt punitive measures against Haiti in a bid to restore democracy to that country. Can even well-intentioned governments force an improvement in human rights records by imposing effective sanctions of one kind or another? There is no doubt that all democratic nations of the world would want to see the rest of the international community go the democratic way. This is a noble stance that one can only respect, provided one keeps in mind the limitations of such a policy. It is one thing to prode undemocratic nations to be democratic and quite another to force democracy down their throat.

Democracy does not grow on trees. It needs constant cultivation and promotion. In the final analysis, both human rights and democracy require a culture for their respect and

promotion. I doubt that Haiti, for example would transform into a democratic state over night simply because the Security Council forced it to respect the results of its latest democratic national elections. But this does not mean that the international community should sit tight and do nothing about human rights violations. There is plenty of sensible things that concerned capitals can do to promote human rights worldwide, short of arms twisting and the application of sanctions.

First of all, there must be one standard in pursuing any effective policy to change human rights records in the many countries which have yet to get the message. Double standards would naturally make any such concern lacking in credibility. Secondly, instead of negative use of trade and commerce as a stick, they should be used positively as a carrot. In other words states which are making a determined effort in the direction of democracy and human rights should be the subject of most favoured treatment. More forceful methods should be used when the level of human rights violations reaches genocide, systematic torture and the like, and when crimes against humanity are committed. The U.N. should be prepared then to use all the means available to it to prevent such grave violations and punish all responsible for them. Bosnia and Rwanda offer two prime specific cases of most recent flouting of the most basic human rights standards without stirring sufficient international concern. There is no doubt in my mind that the genocide in Rwanda was encouraged by the lack of real concern for the genocide in Bosnia. As is, the current international methods for changing the human rights records of countries leaves much to be desired. The existing ways would continue to be ineffective unless there is in place a coherent, consistent and one standard policy. This does not appear to be in the cards but hopefully all of us who are genuinely disturbed by what we see and hear in terms of human rights violations would be able at last to establish the required clear guidelines for this purpose.

Three steps to tame tribalism and unify Europe

By Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

NEW YORK — This is a problematic moment in the long history of Europe. Only a short while back, the magic number 1992 aroused expectations of a vibrant new Europe, united, more prosperous, more undaunted than ever before. Today the dream of European unity seems more distant than it was a decade or two decades ago.

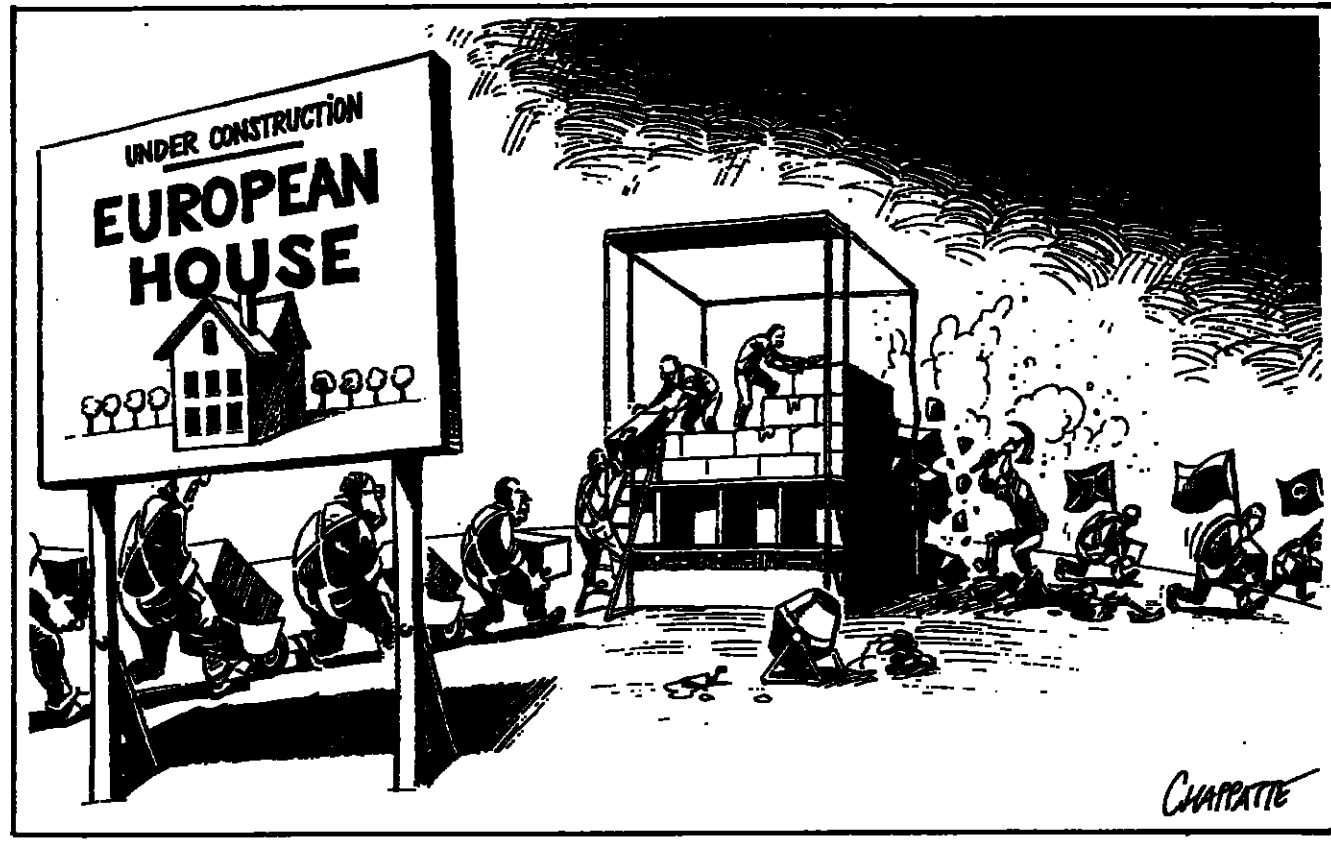
What has befallen that dream? The answer is plain: nationalism.

Nationalism can work for good or ill according to the circumstances. It was nationalist resistance that defeated those, like Napoleon and Hitler, who tried to unify Europe by force of arms. It is nationalist feeling that today frustrates leaders whose benevolent vision is to unify Europe by shared interest and mutual benefit, by persuasion and consent.

Nor has the end of the cold war helped. The Soviet threat was a potent factor in the promotion of European unity. As the threat evaporated, so did the felt need to unite against a totalitarian enemy — or even against the savagery unleashed in what once was Yugoslavia. Nothing has more discredited the vision of European unity than Europe's impotence before the Bosnian tragedy.

As a Yugoslav political scientist well said — and who should know better? — "minorities are going to be an acid test for all post-Communist societies. With Communism all but disappearing, tribal instincts are coming back." And the hostility of one tribe toward another is among the most ancient of human reactions.

On every side today, in every section of the troubled planet, ethnic and religious fanaticism is breaking nations. "The virus of tribalism," says The Economist, "is becoming the AIDS of international politics — lying dormant for years, then flaring up to destroy countries."



High technology is shrinking the globe and overriding traditional boundaries. But integrating pressures drive people to seek refuge from global currents beyond their control and understanding. The more people feel themselves adrift in a cold, impersonal, anonymous world, the more desperately they embrace some warm, familiar, intelligible, protective human unit — the more they crave a politics of identity.

Integration and disintegration thus are the opposites that feed on each other. The more the world integrates, the more people cling to their own in groups increasingly defined in these post-ideological days by ethnic and religious emotions.

Yugoslavia is only the most murderous portent of a darkening future. What was once the Soviet Union contains 104 distinct nationalities, 22 of which have populations of more than a million. Twenty-five

million Russians live outside Russia. The Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences tells us that there are now more than 160 border disputes in the ex-Soviet Union.

Two million Hungarians live in Romania, 700,000 in Slovakia. In all, 30 per cent of the Hungarians live outside Hungary. And 300,000 Germans and 200,000 Ukrainians live in Poland. Nor is Western Europe lacking in ethnic, religious and linguistic enmities.

According to the 1993 U.N. report on refugees, more than one in every 120 people on the globe is a refugee. It is estimated that 25 million people will migrate into the European Union in the next decade, mostly people of alien colours, creeds and customs. Xenophobia and racism are already the rising themes in European politics.

How are democratic societies to cope with ethnic, racial and religious heterogeneity? The United States had

the advantage of settlers who (mostly) came to its shores precisely in order to acquire a new identity. Citizenship has been defined in terms not of ethnic origin but of political ideals, however imperfectly Americans have lived up to those ideals.

They have developed traditions and agencies of assimilation. The melting pot, though uneven in its workings, has created a new nationality, *e pluribus unum*. As Gunnar Myrdal wrote in "An American Dilemma," his great study of race relations in the United States: "The minority peoples of the United States are fighting for status in the larger society; the minorities of Europe are mainly fighting for independence from it."

So there are evident limitations on the value for Europeans of the American experience. I am sure, however, that Europe must move beyond the idea of ethnic nations — the doctrine that citizenship should

be based on bloodlines rather than on principles.

Under current German law, for example, people of German extraction who have never lived in Germany have a better legal claim to German citizenship than do people of Turkish origin who have lived in Germany for a couple of generations. Europe must accept the inevitability of heterogeneity — and the consequent need to persuade heterogeneous peoples to live together in civility and harmony.

The first necessity is the rule of law. Those who seek citizenship in a country can reasonably be called on to abide by the country's constitution and laws. There are persons of ardent religious faith who come to a country and say that they will obey only those of the country's laws that conform to religion. Such indigestible communities are hard to reconcile with a democratic polity.

A second necessity is productive employment. Com-

petition for jobs intensifies ethnic and racial hostilities and feeds political extremism. Economic growth will not cure ethnic prejudices, but it will mitigate some of its worst effects.

A third necessity is an international framework dealing with minority rights. A resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1970 declared that the right to self-determination should not be applied in a way that would break up composite states when those states respect human rights. But how to assure that respect? How to strengthen the international machinery for the protection of minorities?

The Dutch proposal for a High Commissioner for Minorities deserves more serious consideration than it has received from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Others suggest that the existing European Court on Human Rights take on the protection of minorities.

Robert Badinter, president of France's Constitutional Council, recommends a European Arbitration Court. If Hungary, for example, filed a complaint about the treatment of ethnic Hungarians in other countries, the judges would work out a reasonable solution and begin to build up legal precedents that would in time amount to a common law for minority problems. To avert an age of Yugoslavias, the nations of Europe must create some trans-European means of reducing ethnic conflict.

If we cannot deethnicize the concept of citizenship, provide jobs and develop machinery to protect minorities, it is hard to see how the descent into tribalism can be stopped and the dream of European unity revitalised.

The writer is professor in the humanities at the City University of New York. This comment is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Rimpac tests waters for U.S. Pacific alliance

By Eugene Moosa

Reuter

PEARL HARBOUR — Every two years, warships from four of America's allies in the Pacific crowd the jetties at Pearl Harbour after taking part in Rimpac, the biggest multinational navy war games of their kind in the Asia-Pacific region.

For potential adversaries of the United States, Rimpac, short for rim of the Pacific, is a display of naval might of an emerging, de facto U.S.-led military alliance in the region.

For the U.S. allies taking part, the war games on the high seas provide a welcome chance to practice complex, joint operations with the world's largest navy.

In this year's Rimpac games which wound down

last week, South Korea, Canada and Australia sent two or three modern frigates to the games, while Japan dispatched its most powerful eight-ship fleet. The four countries also brought their submarines and naval aircraft into play.

The United States supplied two carrier battle groups and most of the support vessels required in the month-long mock engagement, which climaxed with a simulated fleet action off Midway Island in the central Pacific.

Speaking at the end of the games earlier this week, commanders stressed the importance of "interoperability" which means navies in an alliance must speak the same language and be familiar with common tactical and operational doctrines. Computer links among ships and global satellite communications

were a key aspect, they said.

"The 1990 Rimpac proved to be of valuable experience for the (1991) Gulf war," said the U.S. commander of the war games, Vice Admiral Jerry Unruh. "We were able to enter into smooth cooperation with the navies in the coalition (against Iraq)."

Admirals refused to divulge the exact scenario used in Rimpac and denied that it had any direct relation to current affairs, such as the crisis over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

But they told a news conference they covered almost every aspect of modern naval warfare, including formations for naval blockades and amphibious landings.

A blockade could come into force if the United Nations passed a resolution

calling for a trade embargo against North Korea.

Some countries have cast a wary eye on Rimpac.

A recent issue of the Chinese navy periodical, "Modern Naval Vessels," carried a long article about the Japanese naval buildup and said Rimpac showed Japanese ambitions to rebuild a blue-water navy it used to conquer much of the Far East and Pacific during World War II.

North Korea, in repeated dispatches on its state-run Korean Central News Agency, saw Rimpac as a brazen challenge against itself by South Korea, Japan and the United States.

Rimpac, begun in 1971 to prepare for a showdown with the Soviet Pacific fleet, survived the end of the cold war because of Washington's emphasis on ties with the fast-growing economies of the Asia-Pacific region.

"Certainly there is a political aspect to a military exercise, and there is nothing wrong with that," said Admiral Robert Kelly, commander-in-chief U.S. Pacific fleet. "I happen to believe that it is important for us to protect the U.S. national interest in the region."

Adm. Kelly even welcomed the notion that Russian and Chinese warships take part in future Rimpac games. "I certainly think that kind of development would be beneficial," he told a separate news briefing at his Pearl Harbour headquarters.

Adm. Kelly's spokeswoman said the U.S. Pacific fleet — 200 warships, six carrier battle groups and more than 1,100 warplanes — was geared to deal with a region which lacked a collective security organisation like the North Atlantic

Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Europe.

Vast distances and cuts in navy outlays meant the U.S. Pacific fleet should make maximum use of bilateral security arrangements for joint operations, and hence Rimpac, the spokeswoman said.

On North Korea, Adm. Kelly said his huge fleet was ready to reinforce U.S. military presence in the area. "It would be foolish not to have such plans," he said.

The U.S. 7th Fleet, which covers the Western Pacific and home-ported in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, would probably have over-all command of U.S. forces should any hostilities break out on the Korean Peninsula, Adm. Kelly's spokeswoman said. Adm. Kelly's command has another fleet, the U.S. 3rd Fleet, which covers the eastern half of the Pacific.

Russia and West come closer – but not too close

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — In signing two key agreements this week, Russia and the West are performing an elaborate courtship ritual: They want to get closer to each other — but not too close for the time being.

The accords Moscow has signed with its former ideological foes, NATO and the European Union (EU), are of historic importance if unspectacular content. They give weight to the promises of cooperation both sides have been making since the cold war.

The Partnership for Peace deal concluded in Brussels on Wednesday with the Western alliance, together with a separate agreement on broader political ties, gives Russia the right to consultation with the West but little more.

The cooperation pact signed with the EU at its summit in Corfu on Friday eases business links, regulates tariffs and calls for discussions in four years' time on prospects for creating a free trade zone.

In mapping out these modest agreements, both sides have had to draw a fine line.

The West's strategy is to draw Russia into a web of cooperation agreements which will make it harder for the country's powerful nationalist factions, should they gain power, to retreat into isolation and aggressive chauvinism.

But no Western leader is keen for Russia to join NATO or the EU any time soon, if at all. Its huge size, military strength and potential economic clout would unbalance both organisations, the West fears.

Russia's dilemma in essence reflects a centuries-old debate between Westernisers, who want to integrate the country into Europe, and "Slavophiles" who believe Russians are a race apart and should keep clear of the corrupt West, historians say.

President Boris Yeltsin and his government, who belong broadly to the Westernising camp, are seeking to move closer to Europe and the United States, to

give Moscow a louder voice in world councils and draw in economic aid.

They want to maximise Russia's influence on the European stage but are acutely aware the nationalist and ex-Communist opposition will pounce on any sign of concessions to the West.

Western analysts say opposition leader are bound to criticise this week's agreements for cosying up to the West without bringing Russia any solid gain.

But many analysts say hardline nationalists like Vladimir Zhirinovskiy have lost influence since they performed so strongly in Russia's parliamentary elections last December, and a foreign policy consensus has emerged between reformists and centrists.

"I don't sense that the opposition really can make much capital out of these foreign policy issues nowadays," said Neil Malcolm of Britain's Birmingham University.

Mr. Malcolm also said he thought the Russians had bargained about as far as they could with NATO and the EU.

"In the coldlight of day, they just had to grit their teeth and sign," he said. "They are just in a very weak bargaining position."

Other analysts said they thought Russia, feared by some in the West to be on the verge of disintegration just a year ago, had established itself at least as a credible country with which Western institutions wanted to sign agreements.

"What Russia gets is recognition externally that it's not falling apart," said Bill Wallace of Glasgow University in Scotland.

The agreements strengthened the hand of Mr. Yeltsin and his Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Mr. Wallace said.

Analysts noted that while the NATO and EU accords might not bring Russia much in economic terms, Mr. Chernomyrdin had been in the United States this week signing a deal with international oil companies and obtaining \$820 million in World Bank loans.



CAPITAL OF CRIME: Policemen look towards a victim of a car bomb explosion in a Johannesburg satellite town (AFP photo)

South Africa in fight against violent crime

By David Tucker
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — Political violence has fallen dramatically in South Africa in the weeks since President Nelson Mandela and his new order came to power, but there has been no let-up in violent crime.

Hard-pressed police say the chance of getting killed or maimed during armed robberies is "very high", although they deny the situation is out of control.

The commercial capital Johannesburg, last year dubbed the murder capital of the world, has always been violent, says colonel Eugene Opperman, of the

south African police service.

"I arrived here in 1989 and was surprised at the level and intensity of violent crime," said Mr. Opperman.

"But while political violence is way down, there's an increase in things like motor car thefts, hijackings and robberies."

There were only 87 incidents of political unrest last month in Johannesburg's East Rand area, one of the most violent in the country, compared to 325 in May last year.

But the numbers of murders rose from 144 in April 1993 to 251 in the same period this year.

The national death toll in political violence, however, fell 60 per cent during May, to 195 from 487 during April. Political killings had soared in the run-up to the country's first all-race elections but then dropped off dramatically during the actual polls from April 26 to 29.

"This decrease gives a clear signal that the peace that prevailed during the election days has been maintained," said the watchdog Human Rights Commission.

But violent crime is still a daily feature of South African life... and death.

"Looking at armed robbery, the probability of get-

ting maimed or killed is very high. Criminals have no regard for life," Mr. Opperman said, advising victims of potentially violent crimes not to resist in order to save their lives.

"It's not worth losing your life. Don't try to be a hero," he said.

Mr. Opperman said the situation in Johannesburg was not really as bad as it appeared and was perhaps no worse than in any other major capital.

"The violent crime always makes the news and people have the perception that it's totally out of control, but that isn't the case," he said.

A 20 per cent rise in crime in the industrial heartland centred on Johannesburg and figures indicating there were 14,000 too few police on the beat in the region are none the less worrying.

In theory at least the decline in political crime should allow police to turn more attention to solving and preventing ordinary crime.

The police, in the past perceived by most blacks as the enforcement arm of apartheid, are working hard to become more community-oriented and effective in townships awash with illegal firearms.

The easy access to weapons such as handguns

and automatic rifles is viewed as one of the prime reasons for the high rate of violent crime.

And one idea under study is for a new amnesty on illegally held weapons which would be "bought" by the government and then destroyed.

Sociologists and the government cite reasons for the high crime rate including township deprivation and the collapse in values and respect for the law during the apartheid years, the yawning gap between the haves and have-nots, and a generation of jobless black no-hopers who see crime as the easy, and perhaps the only, way to wealth.

Corruption-buster poised to take power in Belarus

Reuters

MINSK — Alexander Lukashenko, a political outsider who made a name by trying to ferret out top-level corruption, finds himself poised to take over the top office in the former Soviet republic of Belarus.

Mr. Lukashenko, nominally a director of a state farm, won 45 per cent of the vote in Thursday's first round of Belarus's presidential election, a mere five points short of outright victory.

He was a virtually unknown member of Belarus's conservative parliament when he shot to prominence last year with a noisy campaign denouncing virtually all the country's leaders.

His personal attacks on the reputation of Stanislav Shushkevich, the country's first post-Soviet leader, were broadcast live on television.

They ultimately led to Mr. Shushkevich's well-orchestrated removal from parliament and the transfer of effective power to Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, his opponent in the final round in two weeks' time.

Mr. Lukashenko was even more emphatic than Mr. Kebich in pressing for a closer embrace of Moscow and asked deputies to support him in an address to the Russian parliament earlier this year.

He prided himself on being the sole deputy to vote against the 1991 Brest Pact that proclaimed the end of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Lukashenko's fiery campaign pledges to root out corrupt government officials attracted huge crowds among voters weary of two years of economic decline.

"Neither with the left nor with the right, but with the people. Against those who

deceive and plunder the nation," his campaign motto proclaimed.

His opponents denounced him as a populist. Some compared his hectoring style to that of Russian rabble-rouser Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Mr. Lukashenko, 39, had no backing from any political party and relished the image of the lone crusader.

He said unknown assailants fired on his car and complained he was being followed and that his phone was being tapped.

State television tried to discredit him by alleging he had used foreign help to fund his campaign. National television screened an interview two days before the vote with a woman who accused him of stealing personal possessions two years ago.

He turned the tables by portraying himself as a victim and underdog.

BBC T.V. enters region amidst concern those paying the piper will control the tune

By Kathy Evans

This month saw the start of the BBC's bravest and potentially most controversial venture in news satellite broadcasting — its Arabic television news service to the Middle East, one of the most rigidly censored areas in the world.

In many Middle Eastern countries fashion programmes are censored for bare flesh and local news is confined to the comings and goings in royal courts and presidential palaces.

Even before the new service starts, many Arabs are criticising the way the BBC has entered the region on the coat tails of a royal Saudi prince whose network, Orbit Communications, plans to charge viewers \$10,000 for the decoders needed to receive its 20 entertainment channels and the BBC news programmes.

"At this price, this is a news service for sheikhs and rich businessmen" said an angry Saudi academic.

Many Arabs also question how free the BBC will be, given that its partner, Orbit Communications, is owned by Prince Khalid Abdullah, who is a distant cousin of King Fahd.

Senior royal Saudi princes now own the two leading pan-Arabic dailies, a satellite network covering the whole region, and the international news agency UPI. Plans are under way for a new pan-Arab FM radio station. Arab editors say the BBC will become the jewel in the crown of this media empire.

"Why did the BBC choose a Saudi? Why a royal prince? Why didn't they go with a consortium of Arabs known for their support of democracy and freedom of the press?" asked Abdul Barri atwan of

Al Quds newspaper. "In my view the BBC has sold its virginity."

Some BBC executives fear that whoever pays the piper calls the tune. Under Foreign Office oversight, BBC news reporting on Saudi Arabia, Britain's largest defence customer, is already handled with extreme sensitivity.

"We have built up a reputation in the Arab World over 60 years of radio broadcasting which could be eliminated in six months," said an Arabic Service radio employee.

Senior BBC executives have held a number of meetings with employees to reassure them that objectivity will continue. Corporation officials say Orbit will have no editorial influence in their news programmes.

The BBC's entry into the Arab World comes at a time when many governments in the area are determined to

win the battle against the march of global culture. Saudi Arabia is attempting to take the "moral" lead on the issue and has decreed that importing a dish or decoder without permission will incur fines as high as £100,000. Similar bans have been introduced by Iran, Qatar, Malaysia and Indonesia.

"This is a question of sovereignty," commented a senior Saudi media official. "I must insist on my own identity in my own house."

Orbit's access to new cable networks in Saudi Arabia could hinge on the BBC's willingness to accept the "filtering" of its news programming, for there is a delay between the time the signal is received in the country and its transmission locally to the viewer.

Orbit says its programmes will be carefully screened for culturally ob-

jectionable material. "Any parent in the Middle East could feel safe in leaving their five year-old daughter in front of the television with our programming," commented Phil Braden, Orbit's general manager. "As for the news, that will be controlled by the BBC."

BBC officials say they will not accept any tampering with their news programmes. "Anything which interferes with what the viewer sees of our programmes would be completely unacceptable," a spokesman said.

But Saudi media officials say there is no alternative. "Filtering is the name of the game. Whoever does not accept the rules is not going to be in the game in future," said Abdullah Masri, who heads many Saudi-owned media ventures in London.

The Guardian.

THE FAR EAST

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City of London traders expect further dollar plunge

LONDON (AFP) — Traders in the City of London expect the dollar to continue to plunge over the coming weeks, following the failure of central banks to prop up the greenback.

Friday's intervention by some 15 central banks, at the cost of \$3 billion failed to stop the currency from falling to its lowest levels in recent history.

"We are on the edge of the abyss," warned Christian Dunis, analyst at Chemical Bank.

To make the dollar more attractive, the Federal Reserve may have to risk raising U.S. interest rates once again, which would affect the performance of U.S. companies and their ability to borrow.

As a result shares are taking the heat, as Friday's sharp falls on Wall Street, London and Paris showed, and the debt market is bending under the pressure.

A pessimistic City does not see an end to the vicious circle.

"I don't see big bang but a continued pressure on the dollar," said Steve Hannah of

the International Bank of Japan, who expects to see the dollar fall to around 95 yen and 1.5 German marks in the coming weeks.

"There is a speculative element but the fundamentals are a little bit negative for the dollar," he added.

The deepening of the trade deficit harms the greenback, since U.S. businesses must buy foreign currency to pay for these imported goods, and delays in talks with Tokyo to reduce its enormous U.S. trade surplus do not help.

This year, said Mr. Hannah, the market has been concentrating on America's record balance of payments deficit: "The deficit is not new (but) there is a psychological element," he said.

He also pointed to the large sums leaving the country to buy foreign equities — "and we're talking billions of dollars."

The dollar's troubles, structural or not, will not go away overnight and the large investment funds will continue to sell their dollar stakes. "Central banks are just trying to moderate the

decline," he added. Mr. Dunis thinks the U.S. economy is in "good shape," with the trade deficit accentuated by the better performance of European countries. But the central banks are no match for the markets, where "thousands of billions of dollars are traded, more than the bank reserves."

The drop could be halted by decisive action at the Group of Seven (G-7) summit of the most industrialised nations in Naples early July.

"To avoid a major crisis, central banks and governments should surprise the market by striking an agreement which really scares them, and declare themselves ready to intervene massively," he said.

"If the G-7 meeting ends without result, I will sell my dollar position massively," confirmed one fund manager for an American bank.

In the meantime, dealers and central banks "will play cat and mouse," with the dollar slowly fluctuating downwards, said Mr. Dunis. "But each time, the central banks will lose a little more credibility," he warned.

Washington made clear last week that it doesn't want the dollar to drop any more. But analysts said the administration's previous opposition to higher interest rates and its unwillingness to compromise in trade with Japan increase the chances the dollar will do just that.

In the end, the analysts said, the administration risks being stuck with the worst of all worlds — a modest rate increase by the Federal Reserve (Fed) and an unsatisfactory trade pact with Japan that together fail to stop the dollar from falling.

The U.S. central bank has already raised interest rates four times this year in an effort to slow economic growth to more sustainable levels, head off future inflation and thus prolong the expansion.

In announcing its fourth rate rise on May 17, the Fed seemed to signal that move might be the last for a while in a comment that was welcomed by Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen.

Fed officials now say that comment was misread, by both the administration and

by the financial markets. "I don't think we intended to limit our flexibility," a senior Fed official, who declined to be named, said. "Anyone who thinks otherwise is wrong."

The central bank holds its next policy-making meeting July 5-6 and officials said they are not likely to raise interest rates because of the dollar alone.

"I don't think we should chase after the exchange rate," said one official who declined to be named. "The dollar may be moving for reasons totally beyond our control, such as Japan's trade surplus."

But Fed officials did not rule out a rate increase for domestic economic reasons. Although growth has shown some scattered signs of slowing, the economy still has considerable momentum at a time when it is operating at or near full capacity.

Some analysts said the weak dollar could tip the Fed toward raising rates again, especially if the administration blesses the move beforehand as a way to prop up the greenback.

World Bank offers to help borrowing countries reduce their military spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank, the biggest single source of international aid, is offering to help borrowing countries to cut their military spending.

"The bank stands ready to work with borrowers to analyse the impact of non-development expenditures, including military expenditures, with a view to reducing them to the extent feasible," it said in a pamphlet called "Governance," made public.

The bank used to avoid any public talk about countries' military affairs, saying these were political matters outside its ken. But at a briefing on the pamphlet, Vice President Armeane Choksi explained that military spending can crowd out spending that the bank wants to encourage for its own main purpose: To reduce poverty.

The bank lends about \$25 billion a year, not only for

schools and roads but also for "structural adjustment" — remarking the way the borrowing government works.

It is owned by 177 countries, with the United States and other rich governments holding most of the shares. Third World countries and those emerging from communist rule make up about half the members now borrowing from it.

"In many countries military expenditures account for 10 per cent of budget whereas human and social development tends to count for less than five per cent," said Choksi, a Briton born in India.

In 1960 at the height of the cold war, Third World governments spent \$143 on their armed forces for every \$100 they spent on health and schools combined, according to the United Nations. Its latest figures — for 1990-91 — show a reversal: Only \$60 for the military compared with \$100 for health and schools.

The World Bank thinks the Third World can do better than that, but Mr. Choksi said it would not make military cuts a condition for loans. The bank does set other kinds of conditions on its lending, such as reductions of government subsidies or government spending in general.

Two governments — Argentina and Uganda — have already had help from the bank on their military spending.

Last year the bank lent Argentina \$200 million that has helped cut the number of civilian workers in military industry by about 30,000 — nearly half, according to Leandro Coronel, a bank spokesman. Industries owned by the ministry of defence were to the sold off, to save \$200 million a year in government subsidies and \$500 million in losses.

By Mr. Coronel's figuring, Argentina's goal is to reduce military spending from about \$13.7 billion to \$5.7 billion by 1996.

In Uganda, the bank joined with the United States, Britain and other countries by providing \$3.3 million out of \$21 million for a programme to cut the military. Mr. Coronel said the Ugandan army had been reduced from 70,000 men in 1992 to about 29,000 now. In 1993, Uganda saved \$14 million.

Under the heading of Governance, Mr. Choksi said the bank is also reaching into other fields that Mr. Choksi called "grey areas," such as human rights, corruption, reform of countries' judicial systems.

"The bank's contribution to economic and social human rights is embodied in its strategy on poverty reduction," the pamphlet said.

It explained that the strategy includes policies to help poor people share increased wealth and get better access to land, credit and public services.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 27, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to make important decisions and get excellent results as you put your personal affairs on a more solid basis and eliminate some of the confusion that you want resolved. Move quickly.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your hunches are good early in the day, so be sure to follow them. Handle all duties painstakingly and get excellent results for your efforts.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good deal of work can be accomplished today by making proper plans. Rid yourself of whatever deters your progress in any assignment.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A charming person can be very helpful to you early in the day. Take extra time to improve your appearance. Express confidence to all you meet.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Try to be more helpful in your relationship with fellow associates. Study reports and make sure they are accurate in all the details.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Go to the proper sources for the information you need. Financial affairs are best handled later in the day. Be more optimistic.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You could get a pleasant surprise early in the day, but could become frustrated over a minor matter later which you must deal with.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are able to reach a personal aim early in the day, but later unexpected difficulty arises. Relax at home tonight with your loved ones.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are able to gain some aim which means much to you today. Avoid one who could harm you in some way either physically or financially.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get in touch with as many friends as you possibly can and come to a better understanding with them for they can be very helpful on a project.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Find a better system for handling your mounting financial affairs. Sidestep a pest who keeps annoying you and will not allow you to get anything accomplished.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Find the right way to gain your fondest aims and don't let others stop you. Be sure to improve your appearance to make a good impression.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the day when you can use more imagination and get excellent results in career activities. Strive for increased happiness.

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

ACROSS
1 Bathroom dance
6 Booby
10 Ooze
14 Director Rene
15 Style
16 Thrash
17 Growlup
18 Family circle member
19 Yarn painfully
20 Fonteyn and Tallchief
22 New
23 Object
24 Caspario
25 Cereus
26 Carefully considered maneuvers
30 Jimmy
31 Talk vociferously
34 Intoxical
35 Loose gown
36 Lure
38 Manner
39 Christmas
40 "Cowboy"
42 Censored
43 Glasfields
44 Kind of school
47 Truck stop
48 Throng
49 "Gym"
50 Author Richard Henry
52 Jetty
53 Wake-room
54 Spring season
61 Croquet bat
62 Elia
63 Advantage
64 Disrobe
65 Exile sale
66 Brlong
67 Precipitous

DOWN
1 Sinker's toe
2 Swift co-star
3 Hammer
4 Program
5 Moon goddess
6 Bismarck
7 Harm
8 Meara or Magnan
9 Laxer
10 Neaglim
11 Apricot
12 Mythical loved Narcissus
13 Fledding sound
21 Ceremony
25 Persuade
26 Certain ray
27 Slip
28 Repairs
29 Goggles
30 Prolonged bark
31 Unit of energy
32 More competent
33 Like unattended gardens
35 Duck denizen
36 Dog or Nolan
37 For what reason
41 Nine words
42 Charters
43 Hunt top
44 Service station adjunct
47 Deleted
48 African snake
49 Old Hungarian coin
50 Glen
51 Island sea
52 Without feeling
54 Make over
55 Can. prov.
56 Gobs
57 Put forth
58 Forming glutinous strings

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen
GLASBERGEN
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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Anglin
Jumble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.
EECIP
SHOWE
GRENEB
RUSTYD
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.
Answer here: _____
(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: TARRY VALVE GRATIS SULTRY
Answer: What the church remodeler does — HE ALTERS ALTARS

Peanuts

HEY, MANAGER...ASK YOUR CATCHER IF HE'S GOING TO TAKE ME TO THE SENIOR PROM!
SHE WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE HER TO THE SENIOR PROM...
HE SAYS NOT IF YOU WERE THE LAST PERSON ON EARTH!
I'LL CANCEL THE LIMO...

Andy Capp

I SAID GOOD EVENING, DARLIN' NICE TO SEE A NEW FACE IN HERE...
IS THIS BLOKE IN THE HAT OF CHATting TO GIRLS HE DOESN'T KNOW, LANDLORD?
WHAT CHANCE HAS THE POOR LITTLE DEVIL GOT? ALL THE LASSES HE DOES KNOW WON'T SPEAK TO HIM

Mutt'n'Jeff

I DON'T THINK MY GIRL ENCEA LOVES ME ANY MORE!
GO OUT AND GET YOURSELF A GLAMOR-GAL A GAL WITH OOMPH AND MAKE ENCEA JEALOUS!
BUT DON'T FORGET SHE'S GOTTA BE A GAL WITH PLENTY OF OOMPH!
WELL, DID YOU GET AN OOMPH-GIRL?
YEH SHE'S IN THE FRONT ROOM!
YOU BOOB I TOLD YOU TO GET A GIRL WITH OOMPH!
I DID! 300 POUNDS OF OOMPH!
EVERY TIME SHE SITS ON THE SOFA IT GOES OOMPH!

Handwritten note: 404 in 4/4

Financial Markets
Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (June 20-June 24, 1994)

AMMAN — After closing at 1.6095 marks and 102.69 yen at the end of the previous week, the U.S. unit continued its depreciation against other major currencies last week, as it ended 2.15 per cent lower against the yen, 1.61 per cent lower against the mark and 1.17 per cent lower against sterling.

The dollar witnessed a substantial decline against the mark Monday, while moving marginally lower against the yen and sterling, compared to its closing levels in Tokyo early in the day. Reports attributed much of the dollar's weakness against the mark to the continuation of the market's reaction to comments by the chief economist of the Conference Board at the end of the previous week, who had expected the dollar to decline by 10 per cent against the mark within 18 months. Analysts also indicated that a growing sense of bearishness had been built toward the dollar, caused it to fall below the 1.60 mark level that day.

The U.S. unit continued its depreciation against other major currencies Tuesday, especially the yen. The dollar was reported to have fallen below the 100 yen level during trading hours, its lowest levels against the Japanese currency since the end of WWII. It managed to move higher, to close at 100.34 yen later in the day, however. Reports indicated that there was no specific factor that could justify the dollar's decline. Others indicated that an increasing sense of pessimism had spread in the market, which accounted for the continued deterioration of the U.S. currency.

In the meantime, the Fed and other central banks refrained from intervening in the market to support the dollar that day. The abstention left dealers confused and revived speculation of a possible inability by major central banks to coordinate an intervention due to conflicting monetary policy priorities.

The dollar moved marginally higher against other major currencies Wednesday, however, on growing expectations of a possible coordinated intervention by a number of central banks. Comments by two U.S. officials supported this view. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, indicated early in the day, that the Fed could not be indifferent to sharp dollar movements, but failed to specify particular measures which can be taken.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen added later in the day that the Group of Seven members were ready to take appropriate actions to halt irregular fluctuations in the

Foreign Exchange Market

After trading in narrow ranges Thursday, the U.S. unit dropped sharply against other major currencies Friday, especially the mark, despite several rounds of coordinated intervention by the Fed and a number of other central banks. Analysts indicated that the dollar's failure to respond to the massive intervention was attributed to the weakening of the Clinton administration's credibility in the financial markets, which revived expectations of a Fed tightening in the near future, as the only way to support the dollar. Heavy selling of dollar and dollar denominated assets by U.S. Hedge Funds, also added to the dollar's decline.

The dollar thus closed at 1.5840 marks, 100.35 yen and at \$1.5525 to the pound at the end of the week.

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	17/6/1994	24/6/1994
U.S. Dollar	4.0600	5.0000
Sterling Pound	4.6900	5.5600
Deutsche Mark	4.7500	4.9400
Swiss Franc	4.0800	4.4400
French Franc	5.2500	5.4400
Japanese Yen	1.8500	2.2500

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0674	1.0727
Deutsche Mark	0.4339	0.4361
Swiss Franc	0.5177	0.5203
French Franc	0.1266	0.1272
Japanese Yen	0.6839	0.6873
Dutch Guilder	0.3874	0.3893
Swedish Krona	0.0440	0.0442

Oil price rise may cut GCC budget deficits

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An improvement in oil prices over the past few weeks is expected to boost the income of Gulf Arab states and cut their actual budget deficits in 1994, bankers and economists have said.

"There is no doubt the recent increase in world crude prices will boost the revenues of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states as they depend heavily on oil

exports," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at the National Commercial Bank, the biggest bank in Saudi Arabia.

"This will naturally depress their actual deficit at the end of 1994 provided prices remain strong," he told AFP by telephone from Jeddah.

Oil prices have surged by nearly 30 per cent over their \$13 level in March due to unusual compliance by OPEC

members with their production agreement, higher than expected demand, the war in Yemen, the North Korean crisis and other factors, according to Gulf oil analysts.

The price of the OPEC basket of seven crudes last week hit a record \$17.04 this year before it eased later to \$16.98.

According to the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey, top Saudi oil sources expect to gain a further \$2 in the coming months.

It quoted the unnamed sources as saying that the recent "\$3-\$4 price improvement was from a very low base and a further rise of \$2 per barrel would be on the cards before the end of this year.

Oil provides more than 80 per cent of the GCC's income

and weak prices over the past decade have created persistent deficits in the budgets of member states, forcing them to trim spending and borrow for the first time.

Economists said GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — usually base their budgets on a minimum oil price level of between \$12 and \$15 to avert large deficits.

"If oil prices remain as strong as they are now, then the average price will be higher than \$15 this year. This means their projected budget deficits would be lower. In some members, the shortfall could turn into a surplus as was the case in the UAE in recent years," said Yusuf Khalifa, an economics professor at the Emirates University.

French week at Inter-Continental

Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre and Air France held the French week in Amman between June 18 and June 25.

The week included singing parties and famous French dishes prepared by French cooks working at the hotel.

At the end of the week, the hotel management granted several gifts and prizes to guests and participants.

Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel's Manager Ayyoub Shukri spoke about the various programmes and activities carried out during the week, saying that they aim at encouraging cultural ties between Jordan and France.

Attending the party were representatives from the French Cultural Centre and Air France.

Pakistan businesses start 2-day strike

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Industrial and commercial activity came to a halt in most Pakistani cities Sunday as the business community started a two-day strike against new taxation measures in the federal budget.

The strike was almost complete in the country's commercial hub Karachi where, barring some small units, 80 per cent of factories and businesses were closed, witnesses reported. Banners hung in the city read: "We are against anti-trade and anti-industry budget."

Main markets and shopping centres also remained closed in Islamabad and nearby Rawalpindi as well as northwestern Peshawar and the Punjab capital Lahore, witnesses said.

The strike was called by the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) to press its demand for annulling "harsh measures" in the budget for fiscal 1994-95 which starts July 1.

Public and private transport was operating but witnesses said major trading centres joined the protest by keeping their shutters down.

The business community is demanding that the government withdraw mandatory wealth tax returns, discretionary powers of tax officials, eliminate anomalies in the new customs duty and continue the procedure of granting automatic court stay in case of a petition before Tax Appellate Tribunal.

Finance Minister Makhdoom Shahbuddin has said the wealth tax returns had been made mandatory to generate increased revenue from new assessed.

Talks between businessmen and the government failed Thursday with the FPCCI accusing senior officials of mistreating its members.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Saturday said her government would not submit to any "blackmail."

The business community was opposing wealth tax returns because they have something to conceal, she said. "If you have nothing to hide why not fill another form along with income tax returns," she said.

The \$13 billion budget with a deficit of \$2.6 billion proposes new levies totalling \$900 million and seeks to mobilise another \$500 million through a General Sales Tax (GST) on 277 locally manufactured and imported items.

FPCCI President Mohammad Muneer said 90 per cent of the business community had rejected the budget.

Sheikh Muneer said the response to the strike call was "beyond expectations," adding "I salute businessmen and industrialists of Pakistan for observing the shutdown all over the country."

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Kohl left to pick up pieces after EU's Corfu debacle

CORFU, Greece (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl faced a daunting start to his stewardship of the European Union Sunday, searching for a swift solution to a rift that scuppered the EU's Corfu summit.

Britain Saturday blocked the appointment of Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene to succeed Jacques Delors as president of the bloc's Executive Commission, isolating itself in Europe and plunging the bloc into crisis.

The debacle soured the celebratory air of the seaside summit, gave a farewell to failure to Greece's six-month EU presidency and left Mr. Kohl with just three weeks to find a way out before leaders reconvene in emergency session on July 15.

"I would have much preferred to have reached a decision today rather than have it dumped on my doorstep," Mr. Kohl told a news conference at the end of the two-day Corfu meeting.

Germany takes over the EU presidency Friday.

Mr. Kohl, who had championed Mr. Dehaene's candidacy along with France, must now engage in hurried consultations with EU leaders before their mid-July

meeting in Brussels.

Another impasse not only would risk raising the ire of the new European Parliament, which fears more delay would threaten its right to confirm the entire new commission in office, but could also reflect poorly on Mr. Kohl in a crucial election year.

French President Francois Mitterrand and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu gave renewed backing to Mr. Dehaene Saturday, saying Britain was out of step with its 11 partners on its vision of Europe.

Mr. Dehaene's spokeswoman said he would not withdraw.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Sunday ruled out any question of Britain reconsidering its veto, saying Prime Minister John Major believed it was time to stand firm against the federalist style of Europeans like Mr. Dehaene.

The British "no," spoken by Mr. Major in an echo of the battles fought with the rest of Europe by his predecessor Margaret Thatcher, meant Mr. Kohl would almost certainly have to find a new candidate acceptable to all 12 states.

"My judgment will not change under any circumstances. There is no point in inviting me to reconsider," said Mr. Major, who acted under intense pressure from Euro-sceptic members of his divided and deeply unpopular Conservative Party.

The appointment of the commission president, a post Frenchman Delors turned into one of world stature during 10 years at the helm, requires unanimity.

Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who was attending his first EU summit, said the British veto had made the search for an alternative to Mr. Dehaene inevitable.

"I think everyone must show goodwill. The problem is urgent and so it needs a rapid solution. I think it can be done if a name emerges that could attract the consensus of all," he said.

Mr. Dehaene won the support of eight states in an informal poll of EU leaders late Friday, with Italy, Spain and the Netherlands backing Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers and one — Britain — supporting EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan.

Italy, Spain, and later the

Netherlands indicated they would not block Mr. Dehaene, but Britain held out against him after both Mr. Lubbers and Mr. Brittan withdrew from the race.

Mr. Major said he had opposed Mr. Dehaene because he was a "big government" interventionist.

"Jean-Luc represents a tradition of big government and intervention, a tradition which is not necessarily in touch with the direction in which Europe is heading," he said.

Britain was also among a number of delegations which had resented what they saw as an attempt by France and Germany, the EU's traditional powerbrokers, to steamroller Mr. Dehaene through.

The row overshadowed the rest of the summit, at which Russia and the EU signed a landmark partnership pact and Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway sealed accession treaties in spectacular seafront settings.

Mr. Kohl has set the main priorities of Germany's six-month EU tenure as forcing the pace of European integration and preparing the entry of four new members from the start of 1995.



A Haitian woman buys black market gasoline embargo has forced the price of fuel up to \$8 in Port-Au-Prince. The complete U.S.-U.N. per gallon (AFP photo)

Aristide pledges political amnesty

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) — Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said he would declare an amnesty for his political foes on his return home, in an interview published by Focus magazine Sunday.

Asked if he would put the military leadership that overthrew him on trial, he said: "No. First of all I would declare a political amnesty. I have undertaken to do so under Article 147 of our constitution."

Mr. Aristide said he would begin by seeking reconciliation with his enemies and a reform of the legal system so that justice was not simply bought with money.

He said the population was "99.5 per cent" behind him, and those that fled the country following his ouster were awaiting only the restoration of democracy to go back.

He denied that he had ever

called for U.S. military intervention to return him to power, saying what he had always wanted was "a solution with the help of the international community."

He called for a separation of police and army powers in Haiti and an end to the situation where "an army only 7,000-strong eats up 40 per cent of the state budget," and expressed support for a tough embargo against the regime.

"Only a total embargo can shorten my people's time of suffering," he said. "Unfortunately that has only recently been called for. But for the military the game is now up."

Meanwhile, Haiti's army chief General Raoul Cedras has withdrawn about \$500,000 in hard currency from the country's central bank, the Washington Post said Saturday.

The Post said the reason

Gen. Cedras withdrew the money last week was not clear, but one source said it might be a prelude to the general's flight from the country.

Other sources told the Post they believed the money would go to finance a new lobbying campaign in the United States against the return of President Aristide.

If so, said diplomats and officials of the government of acting Prime Minister Robert Malval, it would be a strong indication the military had no intention of abandoning power.

The report came as U.S. and Canadian airlines halted all flights to Haiti, increasing its isolation. On Wednesday, the United States froze the assets of hundreds of Haitians in the United States and in Haitian branches of U.S. banks.

S. Korea arrest over 330 protesters

SEOUL (R) — South Korea, intensifying a crackdown on labour strife that threatens the nation's robust economy, Sunday used thousands of riot police to crush anti-government protests by strikers and students.

The Defence Ministry, meanwhile, ordered hundreds of soldiers to replace train engineers and mechanics who defied a government ban on work stoppages and paralysed the nation's railway transport.

Riot police stormed two campuses and a Christian building in Seoul and arrested more than 330 workers and students.

More than 1,000 striking subway workers fled the campus of Kyunghee University in Seoul while hundreds of students threw petrol bombs and stones in a bid to repel a huge police attack that began at dawn, witnesses said.

Backed by several black armoured vans spewing a cloud of choking teargas, riot police later stormed another university campus where the protesters had regrouped.

Students and strikers, armed with steel pipes and petrol bombs, fought a pitched battle with police on the campus of Dongduk Women's University.

Despite Sunday's huge operation, police said they managed to arrest only 88 striking workers and students on the campuses.

"We sent in 5,000 riot police but only after most of the strikers left the campuses," a police spokesman said.

Thousands of subway workers began an indefinite strike Friday to press their demands for higher pay and to protest against a government crackdown on union activities.

The Seoul Metropolitan Subway Corporation mobilised reserve train drivers and managed to keep most lines operating on skeleton timetables.

State rail workers, meanwhile, paralysed the national overground network for a fourth day.

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Bangladeshi writer wants asylum in U.S.

DHAKA (R) — Fugitive feminist writer Taslima Nasrin, under warrant of arrest and with Muslim fundamentalists calling for her death, has asked for asylum in the United States, Bangladesh newspapers said Sunday.

Dr. Nasrin has requested the New York-based International Women's Committee of the writers' group Pen to lobby the U.S. government, the government-run Bangladesh Times said.

The independent daily New Nation gave details of her request to Pen. "I am in great danger. Any time the fundamentalists will kill me," she said.

"The government is against me. So I have no scope to escape from this dangerous situation," Dr. Nasrin alleged in a letter to Meredith Tax of Pen.

U.S. embassy officials in Dhaka were not available for comment.

The fury of the Muslims was provoked when Dr. Nasrin, who is in her early 30s, was quoted by India's Statesman newspaper as saying Islam's holy book, the Koran, should be "revised thoroughly."

She has denied saying this. Earlier she had drawn widespread criticism in Bangladesh for her attacks on religion and marriage, and promoting free love.

The government ordered her arrest after the Bangladesh Times reprinted the Statesman article on June 4. A fundamentalist leader, Mufit Nazrul Islam, later offered a 100,000 taka (\$2,500) reward for her death. Other fundamentalists followed suit. She has since

been in hiding.

Dr. Nasrin fuelled the controversy by telling the Australian Broadcasting Corporation last week that Islam treats "women as slaves and... women must live outside religion and Islamic Law."

The government told Dhaka-based diplomats Wednesday Bangladesh did not want any outside interference on Dr. Nasrin.

"Please don't interfere. Let the issue be handled by us. It is a very sensitive issue that many of us, except the Muslims, will not understand," Foreign Secretary Mufit Nazrul Islam told the diplomats.

Sweden called in Bangladesh's charge d'affaires in Stockholm on the same day to express its concern for Dr. Nasrin.

FBI chief to leave on crime-fighting trip to Russia

WASHINGTON (R) — FBI chief Louis Freeh departs Monday with a delegation of U.S. law enforcement officials for a 10-day trip to Russia and nearby nations aimed at cracking down on the growing menace of organised crime.

Mr. Freeh, the first FBI director to ever travel to Russia, said the fact-finding mission will focus on ways to combat the alarming spread of organised crime and drug trafficking in Russia and Europe.

Another key concern will be ways to strengthen security measures to prevent the possible theft of nuclear weapons from Russia and other parts of the former Soviet Union for sale to terrorist groups, he said.

"The purpose of our trip to Europe is to join together with other nations in anti-crime programmes that will benefit all. This is a step that is long overdue," Mr. Freeh said after leaving at FBI Headquarters last week.

Russia has been hit by a dramatic and much-publicised rise in criminal gang activity in the few years since the Soviet Union and its Communist system crumbled and a painful shift toward free-market capitalism got under way.

U.S. officials estimate Russian gangs total more than 100,000 members, and that their criminal activity has undermined the government's economic reforms by requiring legitimate businesses to make large payoffs.

They said the gangs also linked up with Colombian drug cartels and the Sicilian mafia and were responsible for a wide array of crimes in the United States.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin earlier this month issued a sweeping decree giving security forces special powers to crack down on gangs, causing his critics to complain that it threatens human rights.

Mr. Freeh, who has yet to hear if he will get a requested meeting with Mr. Yeltsin, said the decree represented an effort to deal with "an avalanche of violent crime threatening the very structure of government."

Asked if the Yeltsin decree had caused him to make any changes in his trip, Mr. Freeh replied, "No. Not at this point."

During the visit, Mr. Freeh also plans to open the FBI's first office in Moscow on July 4.

Besides Russia, the U.S. delegation will meet with law enforcement officials in Germany, the Czech and Slovak republics, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine and Austria.

In Lithuania, the Americans will confer with officials from Latvia and Estonia.

The delegation will start the meetings in Berlin Tuesday, discussing cooperative efforts with the Germans against hate crimes by neo-Nazis, skinheads and other similar groups.

Kravchuk says life in Ukraine will improve

KIEV (R) — President Leonid Kravchuk, seeking reelection Sunday, told voters he had built up a state without chaos and said their lives would improve over time.

Mr. Kravchuk clashed with his main challenger over foreign policy, praising the West's attitude to Kiev. He pledged Ukraine would join a major international treaty to rid itself of nuclear arms for good.

"...In the historical perspective, we have built a state in 2½ years without a shot being fired, without war or cataclysm," Mr. Kravchuk said after voting in central Kiev.

"We have far to go to ideal democracy, a market economy, social guarantees. But the direction has been chosen... Within one, two, three years everything will be in its place."

Kravchuk, praised in the West for persuading parlia-

ment to agree to give up nuclear weapons, pledged Ukraine would join the 1968 non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

Mr. Kravchuk said the West was examining ways of providing assistance to Ukraine and praised a cooperation treaty with the European Union as a first step to closer ties.

Mr. Kravchuk's main rival in the vote, former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, questioned Western aid to Ukraine Sunday and said he would not press immediately for joining NPT if elected.

Meanwhile, Ukrainians voted Sunday in the presidential election and officials reported a steady stream of people turning up to cast their ballot under cloudless skies.

Polls in the former Soviet republic were open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (0400 to 1700 GMT) and first results were expected early Monday.

Rage over Keating comment turns on Hawke

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's most successful Labour politician, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke, is facing the collective fury of the movement he led for a decade for accusing his successor, Paul Keating, of denigrating his country.

Meantime, Mr. Keating leaves "the arse end of the world" Monday for three days respite from a row raging unabated here over his allegedly earthy description of Australia in a supposedly private conversation with Mr. Hawke in 1991.

Mr. Keating, who denies the comment, is due late Monday in Indonesia for talks with President Suharto.

In an effort to deflect electoral damage observers believe is flowing from the row, Labour colleagues have condemned Mr. Keating's accuser and their former leader.

But many observers and Labour politicians believe that as damaging as it will be to Mr. Keating, the accusation will be even more damaging to Mr. Hawke — and his place in the history books.

Mr. Hawke, who made the charge in his soon-to-be published memoirs, led Labour to a record four terms in office from 1983-92.

Mr. Keating's supporters, convinced Mr. Hawke could not win another election, engineered a successful party room coup in which Mr. Hawke was ousted in late 1992 and Mr. Keating was elevated, retaining the premiership in a brilliant election win last year.

The Conservative opposition has seized on the comment with gusto and is using it to present Mr. Keating as disloyal to his country.



Volunteer workers at a rescue station in Cape Town help off-load oil-covered penguins from Robben Island (AFP photo)

Winds halt S. Africa's penguin mercy mission

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — Howling winds Sunday halted the South African Air Force's helicopter airlift of penguins polluted by a massive oil slick bubbling up from a sunken tanker off the coast of Cape Town.

Sea Fisheries pollution expert Anton Moldan said the adverse weather conditions had prevented coast guard vessels from reaching the slick to begin dispersal operations.

The thick crude has caused the worst-ever ecological disaster on the Atlantic seaboard off Cape Town, polluting penguin colonies and covering tourist beaches in black slime.

Moldan said two coast guard vessels left Cape Town harbour with 100,000 litres

(26,000 gallons) of oil dispersant on board very early Sunday but were forced back by Force Eight winds.

The oil is leaking from the hull of Spanish tanker Castor de Bellver, which was deliberately sunk off Saldanha Bay, 90 kilometres (55 miles) northwest of here, in September 1983.

Environmentalists fear the oil will wreck the fragile ecology of the Western Cape coast, which is rich in fish, rock lobster and perlemoen.

The oil Thursday began washing ashore on the island, which boasts a 40,000-strong Jackass penguin colony, as well as on Robben Island, seven nautical miles from Cape Town, where prisoners have been drafted in to help pick up the penguins.

Clinton to Congress: Avoid quick-fix on health

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has insisted that universal coverage was essential to true health reform and warned Congress that quick-fix compromises will "only make matters worse."

Mr. Clinton, trying to deal with a Congress searching for a compromise version of the sweeping health reform proposals he offered earlier in the year, stressed his demand that the final plan apply to all Americans.

"Now that we've come this far, we mustn't turn back," Mr. Clinton said in his weekly radio address to the nation.

In a direct appeal to members of the Senate and House of Representatives, Mr. Clinton said, "momentum is building toward a solution for the health care crisis. And, as we settle on one, we must make sure we go to the root of the problems in the current system."

"Half measures, quick fixes, things that sound better than they actually will work will only make matters worse," he warned.

Mr. Clinton showed no enthusiasm for a bipartisan

proposal crafted by a group of politically moderate senators trying to break a deadlock in the powerful Senate Finance Committee.

The compromise plan would not require businesses or individuals to buy health insurance. Instead it would rely upon market reforms, tax breaks and vouchers for the poor to cover at least 95 per cent of the population by 2002.

"We've heard a lot about measures lately that wouldn't provide coverage to all families," said Mr. Clinton, who has threatened to veto legislation that failed to insure universal coverage.

"But make no mistake, measures that are half-hearted would, at best, guarantee that things stay only about as good as they are now — the poor would get health care, the wealthy would get health care, the middle class would get it sometimes."

Mr. Clinton has proposed requiring employers to pay 80 per cent of workers health insurance but said he was open to compromise as long as the final plan protected all

Americans.

Mindful that one-third of the Senate and all 435 seats in the House are at stake in the November election, Mr. Clinton pointed out that members of Congress and the executive branch "have a great deal right now" because the federal government pays most of the insurance costs for its employees.

"Now I believe every working American deserves these same benefits," Mr. Clinton said, urging Americans "to tell Congress that you believe the same thing."

In the Republican response, New Jersey Representative Jim Saxton, alluding to Mr. Clinton's attack on American "cynicism" in a call to a talk radio show Friday, said the problem with health care is not cynicism but scepticism.

"When it comes to your health care bill, the American people are not cynical, they're sceptical. And they have reason to be," he said.

"It's not that the American people are unwilling or unable to understand your plan. It is that the American people have rejected your big

government, high tax approach," he added.

He called for a less ambitious approach than Mr. Clinton advocates but said, "unfortunately Congress can't pass a meaningful health care reform bill until President Clinton abandons his way or the highway position."

Meanwhile, the House Ways and Means Committee held an unusual Saturday session in a bid to complete its version of health reform legislation by the end of next week, when Congress breaks for a week-long July 4th holiday recess.

The panel worked its way through some less controversial amendments to the bill, after setting aside until next week the more difficult issue of whether or not to include price controls.

"We are really still debating that on our side," Acting Chairman Sam Gibbons of Florida said.

The ways and means bill, in a departure from Mr. Clinton's proposal, would create a new Medicare programme for poor people and small businesses.

Cavalry, Indians meet again — peacefully

FORT MEADE, South Dakota (AFP) — The 7th Cavalry and the Indians met here Saturday in memory of the historic Battle of Little Bighorn fought more than a century ago. The ceremony, organised partly by the 7th Cavalry Regimental Association, drew cavalry and Indian tribe members from across the United States. It began with a horse ride to nearby Bear Butte and ended with a ceremony on Fort Meade parade ground. Indian tribes defeated Lt General George Custer and his cavalry in the battle in Montana 118 years ago to the day.

Christians stage 'marches for Jesus'

LONDON (AFP) — More than 100,000 Christians of mixed denominations staged "marches for Jesus" Saturday in three European cities, as organisers said millions would make similar demonstrations of their faith worldwide during the day. In London, where the day of marches was conceived in 1987, around 50,000 joined the celebration Saturday afternoon. Meanwhile in Berlin a similar number of mainly young Germans walked behind a huge wooden cross to the Olympic Stadium's Church of Remembrance, where they sang hymns and prayed. Organisers there said Christians from "all communities and churches" took part, although the Berlin-Brandenburg Evangelical Church and the city's Roman Catholic Bishop distanced themselves from the German event. And in Prague some 5,000 representatives of around a dozen Christian groups — including Catholics — marched through the city centre declaring their faith and praying for justice and youth education, organisers said. Similar marches were to take place in almost 650 towns worldwide during the day, with a total of some 15 million people expected to participate, the organisers of the Berlin event said.

U.S. zoo group to donate funds for panda

BEIJING (AP) — An American zoo association plans to donate \$100,000 in cash and equipment to China's programmes for protecting the rare giant panda, the official China Daily newspaper said. Dennis Meritt and Sydney Butler of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association announced the donation while in Beijing after visiting a panda reserve, the newspaper said. The association has more than 160 member zoos, it said. "The aid will be used to build new monitoring stations in reserve areas for research, personnel training and the education of villagers," the paper quoted Mr. Meritt, the association president, as saying. The U.S. association is negotiating a \$30 million, long-term cooperative panda preservation project with the Chinese, the paper said, but gave no details. It said the project still needs approval from both the Chinese and U.S. governments. An estimated 1,000 giant pandas survive in the wild in China, their native home, while there are several hundred in zoos worldwide. Their numbers have declined sharply as humans log and farm on the cool, bamboo-covered mountain slopes in central and southern China that pandas roamed for centuries.

Disney Film opens to sell-out audiences

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Walt Disney Pictures' latest full-length animated feature, The Lion King, which opened in South Africa Friday, was drawing bumper audiences, distributors Ster-Kinekor said Saturday. "Most cinemas are sold out," said Ster-Kinekor general manager Graham Reid. "We are very happy indeed." According to Mr. Reid, however, business in theatres screening the Zulu version of the movie was "rather slow." For the first time ever, Disney has allowed one of its animated features to be dubbed into Zulu, the most commonly spoken black language in southern Africa, in an attempt to capture the huge Zulu-speaking younger market. "We expected a slow start," Mr. Reid said, adding that some cinemas had Friday morning drawn no audiences.

Japan's LDP manoeuvres for return to power

TOKYO (R) — Japan's main opposition party took up the challenge to try to form a government, taking tentative steps Sunday towards an alliance with smaller groups which could escort it back to power.

Tsutomu Hata resigned as prime minister Saturday together with his minority government rather than lose a no-confidence vote in parliament.

His only other option was to call a snap general election, which he ruled out because it would create a political vacuum.

Mr. Hata was the second prime minister to be chosen from the multi-party coalition that ousted the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) last August after 38 years of unbroken rule.

Yoshiro Mori, LDP secretary-general, on Sunday met his counterpart Wataru Kubo of the Socialists, the second largest opposition party. Japanese news media said the two agreed that a new government should be established as soon as possible.

NHK public television said the LDP also wanted talks with New Party Sakigake, composed of former LDP lawmakers.

LDP President Yohei Kono hinted that his party could work out an alliance with the two groups and even reach a broad policy agreement with the Socialists, their past arch-enemy.

Mr. Kono was taking up the challenge from leaders of Japan's departing coalition to try to form a government.

Disarray looks certain since no party holds a majority. Policy differences and power struggles exist both among the parties and within them.

"We can't say what will happen tomorrow. In fact, we can't even say in the morning what will happen in the afternoon," said Kozo Watanabe, deputy secretary-general of the Shinseito, another leading force in Mr. Hata's coalition.

That bodes ill for Japan, which faces an urgent agenda including a G7 summit next month and is trying to limit the damage to economic recovery from the rise of the yen to post-World War II highs against the dollar.

Japan is likely to be pressed by Washington and other trade partners to stimulate its economy and cut its huge trade surplus at the G7 summit in Naples on July 8-10.

Last year then-Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa hosted the G7 summit in Tokyo as a lame duck, having already lost a no-confidence vote and scheduled snap elections.

This year, Mr. Hata had expected to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton on the summit sidelines to discuss progress in trade talks, which reopened this month after a three-month deadlock.

In a 10-minute telephone conversation Sunday, Mr. Hata assured Mr. Clinton Japan would push ahead with trade talks and briefed the president about his decision to resign, the Kyodo News Service reported.

The coalition government had pledged to work out a package of market-opening and deregulation measures before the summit, as well as outline plans for domestic tax reform.



A Ghanaian U.N. soldier peers through the facade of the U.N. headquarters as government soldiers and rebels exchange gunfire in the streets of Kigali. U.N. troops abandoned plans to evacuate refugees trapped behind battle lines in the capital after the two sides failed to agree on a temporary ceasefire (AFP photo).

German parties battle for key state

MAGDEBURG, Germany (R) — Voters in the depressed eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt elect a new government Sunday, with Germany's two main parties hoping for a strong showing ahead of October's general elections.

Opinion polls showed the ruling Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Social Democrats (SPD) running neck-and-neck in the state, which has the nation's highest unemployment.

But voter turnout on a sweltering day was sluggish up to midday and a low turnout could help the reformed communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), which may grab about 20 per cent of the vote and take third place.

Election officials said only 25 per cent of the state's 2.16 million voters had cast their ballots by noon.

The vote is the latest in 19 ballots to be held in Germany this year, leading up to general elections on Oct. 16.

Saxony-Anhalt, where unemployment is above 19 per cent, is the first of the five eastern German states to vote this year.

State Premier Christopher Bergner, who like Chancellor Helmut Kohl had hailed the CDU out of a deep popular-

ity trough, said Sunday he was optimistic voters will make the CDU the largest party in Saxony-Anhalt again.

"I feel the same way Chancellor Kohl does," Mr. Bergner confidently told German radio Sunday morning after casting his ballot. "I want to know what the voters have to say."

Mr. Kohl, who has brought the CDU roaring back ahead of the SPD in national opinion polls in recent months, has campaigned extensively on behalf of Mr. Bergner in this bell-shaped state just east of the former East German border.

Earlier this year, Mr. Bergner became the third state premier in the state after his predecessor, Werner Muehl, was forced to resign in the wake of a financial scandal. The CDU had then been given virtually no chance of hanging on to power.

But Mr. Bergner, a humble and soft-spoken easterner who rode the train to work each morning, has succeeded in erasing the scandal from voters' minds and brought the CDU in the state back on top.

The CDU won 31.2 per cent in local elections two

weeks ago, considered a dress rehearsal for today's vote. The SPD scored a disappointing 29.7 per cent, although they improved on the 1990 score of 26 per cent.

Mr. Bergner's SPD challenger, Reinhard Hoepfner, admitted frustration that voters had forgotten the numerous CDU scandals in the state. He has also failed to profit from the state's high unemployment rate, but was still confident.

"I assume that I will come out on top today," Mr. Hoepfner said after casting his ballot.

A strong showing by the CDU in Saxony-Anhalt could keep the wind for Kohl's reelection bid blowing in the right direction.

But a win for the SPD could help reverse the sharp decline in the popularity of Mr. Kohl's SPD challenger, Rudolf Scharping. Mr. Scharping gave a rousing and widely acclaimed speech to SPD delegates in the nearby town of Halle last week.

An opinion poll by the respected Ennid Institute published Sunday found that the CDU would win 38 per cent of the vote if a federal ballot were held Sunday, up four percentage points from a similar survey a week ago.

Murtaza Bhutto starts campaign in Sind

KARACHI (AFP) — Braving scorching heat and police tear-gas, thousands of people lined railway tracks to greet Murtaza Bhutto during his maiden tour of Sind after 16 years in self-exile.

The estranged brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, concluding a train tour of his southern home province late Saturday, dubbed the government's alleged attempts to keep his supporters away as its "political defeat."

Murtaza, 39, who was released on bail June 5 after seven months in jail, undertook a day-long journey to Karachi from the family's ancestral hometown of Larkana.

People claiming to have been harassed by the local officials broke through the police cordon at several places.

Murtaza told journalists

that hundreds of his supporters had been arrested throughout Sind. He said he had received reports of police tear-gas and baton charges to disperse crowds.

Trying to project himself as political heir to his late father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Murtaza said: "I belong to the whole nation."

"As far as I am concerned, Sind has given its verdict," he said as hordes of people turned out in temperatures ranging above 37 degrees Celsius (99 degrees Fahrenheit).

Murtaza's tour indicates that he might pose a tangible threat to his sister. He said he does not intend to confront her directly at present. But he remains hostile to his brother-in-law, Asif Ali Zardari, charging him with excessive corruption.

He told supporters that he would go against his own

feudal class to return power to the people as did his late father, whose legacy is now claimed by the rival brother and sister.

Ali Bhutto, who founded the ruling Pakistan People's Party, was hanged by the military regime of late General Zia Ul Haq in 1979. Murtaza went into exile, first in Kabul and later Damascus and headed the Al Zulfikar Organisation (AZO), which launched attacks against Gen. Zia's martial law. Murtaza is facing a string of terrorism charges in his alleged role as the AZO chief.

The tussle between the brother and sister has left party supporters divided.

"We have come to pay homage to Bhutto," shouted one supporter as he ran alongside Murtaza's train compartment. When asked which Bhutto he meant, he shouted back: "All of them."

Nigerian constitutional conference prepares to open amid crisis

ABUJA (AFP) — Nigeria's military ruler General Sani Abacha will open a much-awaited national constitutional conference Monday amid a mood of unprecedented crisis, following the arrest last week of the country's main opposition figure.

The credibility of Gen. Abacha, who took power in November last year, hinges on the conference which is promoted as the key part of a much-promised but delayed return to democracy and civilian government.

The opposition, barred from the conference, had already dismissed it as a farce. But it is now in open rebellion after the arrest of Moshhood Abiola, widely believed to have won Nigeria's annulled free elections last year.

The opposition and trade unions are demanding the immediate resignation of Abacha's "illegal" regime and the release of Mr. Abiola, with the powerful oil and gas workers' union NUPENG threatening industrial action in this major oil-producing country.

Britain and the United States have also denounced Mr. Abiola's arrest, with Washington saying it raised "very serious questions with respect to the Nigerian government's commitment to restoring unhindered, civilian

democracy."

Mr. Abiola was held by police Thursday after declaring himself "president and commander-in-chief of the armed forces of Nigeria" on June 11, anniversary of the election.

Other opposition leaders arrested during a month of growing resistance to Gen. Abacha's regime have been detained and charged with treason.

The Lagos Federal High Court was due to hear an appeal by Mr. Abiola Monday, who wants the court to order his release and to grant an injunction restraining the government from infringing on his fundamental rights.

Last year's election was billed free and fair by international observers, but annulled by then junta leader General Ibrahim Babangida who alleged irregularities.

Gen. Babangida stepped down in August in favour of an unelected civilian administration which Gen. Abacha overthrew in November, dissolving the parliament.

being turned off in November, city residents said, and some former parliamentary staff were redeployed as reception, protocol, and accreditation officers.

Delegates were being housed in the "village" originally built for National Assembly members. On Saturday evening they were found watching the World Cup match between Nigeria and Argentina, in which Nigeria lost 1-2.

"Delegates include businessmen, technocrats and personalities from Nigeria's two political parties, the Social Democratic Party and the National Republican Convention which were both dissolved at the time of the putsch."

But the list contains no known government critics, human rights or pro-democracy activists, or representatives of student and religious bodies.

Gen. Abacha called the conference to work out a new constitutional model for the country, judging that the early parliamentary system of Britain, the former colonial power, and the U.S. presidential model had both failed.

Periods of civilian rule under both systems ended in a return to military power, in 1966 and 1983.

U.N. puts off bid to rescue Rwandan orphans in Kigali

KIGALI (R) — The United Nations Sunday put off an attempt to rescue a group of unaccompanied children and orphans among 30,000 civilians it says are trapped like hostages by Rwanda's civil war in the capital Kigali.

After several days of intense fighting, Kigali was deathly silent for much of the night but the U.N. said it had postponed plans to evacuate about 200 trapped Tutsis — mostly children — after failing to win guarantees of safe passage.

French troops, meanwhile, fanned out across the southwest of the country to prevent fresh massacres following the killing of an estimated 500,000 people in two months of ethnic and related blood-letting.

The U.N. said Sunday that most of the trapped civilians were Tutsis caught behind government lines.

"Altogether there are about 25,000 on the government side," U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) military spokesman Major Jean-Guy Plante told reporters.

He said an estimated 5,200

were in U.N.-guarded centres in city territory controlled by the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF). "On both sides they are hostages," he added.

The U.N. once again put back plans to rescue 200 people, mostly unaccompanied Tutsi children and orphans, from the Saint Michel Cathedral on the government side.

UNAMIR had to abort an attempt to truck the children out of Saint Michel and take a similar number of people out of rebel lines Saturday after both sides violated a temporary truce and failed to provide security.

Former French Humanitarian Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner failed earlier this month to secure the release of the Saint Michel children.

The largest concentration of Tutsis on the government side is in the Saint Famille Church complex, where 8,000 people are surrounded by Hutu militias.

The militias butchered 60 boys they dragged out of Saint Famille on June 11, sparking international outrage that led to the French-led

"Operation Turquoise" to save civilians in the Rwandan bloodbath.

The RPF responded by conducting a commando raid in which some 600 people from Saint Famille were rescued from the church, but the militias retaliated once more by killing an unknown number of people inside.

Maj. Plante said that an estimated 10,000 of the people on the government side were in hiding and that each time Tutsis were evacuated from compounds more streamed into them.

He added that UNAMIR, which had been barely able to monitor events on the government side because of heavy fighting there, had not heard of any fresh massacres for more than a week.

In the southwest, a convoy of French troops rolled across the Rwandan border from Zaire Sunday morning as Operation Turquoise spread across the southwest of the country.

The convoy of 13 jeeps and two trucks, carrying paratroopers, anti-tank missiles and machine guns, came

from Bukavu, a Zairean town on the southern banks of Lake Kivu, where France has set up one of the three major bases for its mission.

Other French troops were driving into Rwanda on the north side of Lake Kivu after crossing over from their second major logistics base at the Zairean town of Goma Saturday.

French troops are unlikely to come to Kigali despite the crisis. The rebels, who have the upper hand in the civil war, have threatened to attack French troops if they hinder their efforts to crush government loyalists.

The rebels, highly distrustful of France because it armed and trained their government foes, say they might accept their mission if it is proved to be simply humanitarian.

UNAMIR Commander Major-General Romeo Dallaire was set to fly to the eastern Zaire town of Goma in the next few days to meet up with French officers.

"There is obviously a need for coordination," said Maj. Plante.

Too many candidates could sink right in French elections

PARIS (AFP) — The French right could scupper its chances of winning presidential elections in the spring of 1995 as a band of rivals lines up in hopes of winning the rich prize.

Although a right-wing coalition routed the Socialists in legislative elections in March, 1993, the right is spoiling its chances with one rival after another making his pitch, raising the possibility that a leftist could win by default.

It is already clear that the two rightist front-runners, Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, will both be standing in the first round of the presidential election next April, even though they are in the same party, the Rally For the Republic (RPR).

They are ignoring repeated calls by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua for "primaries" within the governing majority to present a single candidate at the polls.

He fears that right-wing divisions will let through a Socialist, as they did in 1981 and 1988, when outgoing President Francois Mitterrand won successive seven-year mandates.

In addition to Mr. Chirac and Mr. Balladur, other right-wing war horses threw their cap into the ring last week, encouraged by continuing disarray on the left.

Former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, head of the centre-right component of the ruling coalition, the Union for French Democracy, pushed his pawns in a television appearance.

Cagey, he said: "It could be that I shall stand. It could be that I shall not stand." But Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, 68, who was ousted by Mr. Mitterrand in 1981, made it clear he is definitely interested.

Former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, 70, also of the UDF, said he was ready to "take the risk" of being a candidate "if I have the means."

All the candidates are being coy about actually saying they will stand, including RPR leader Chirac, 61, who in another television appearance presented a slim volume entitled A New France: Reflections Part I.

The situation would be more serious for the right if it were not for the disarray of the left, whose leader, Michel Rocard, resigned last Sunday after a disastrous showing in the European elections.

For the moment, the left has no candidate. And the favourite in the opinion polls, outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors, 68, is also being coy.

He refused last Thursday

to speak before his EU mandate runs out next January. "This is not tactics on my part, I am not allowed to get involved in internal politics."

A opinion poll last week placed Mr. Delors, a former finance minister on the right of the Socialists, at almost level pegging with Mr. Balladur in confidence rating for the presidency.

The poll, carried out by the CSA Institute for the daily Le Parisien, gave 47 per cent for Mr. Delors (up four points in a month) against 48 per cent (down one point) for Mr. Balladur.

Mr. Chirac came third with 38 per cent (down two points) and Health Minister Simone Veil fourth.

An outsider for the Socialists could be Mr. Delors's own daughter, 43-year-old Martine Aubry, who, as one Socialist warhorse put it, could bring a breath of fresh air to a French political scene dominated by the old.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dehaene remains in EU race

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene Sunday said he was still in the running for president of the European Union Commission, despite Britain's veto at the just-concluded EU summit in Corfu, Greece. "I remain a candidate," Mr. Dehaene told RTBF public television in the wake of the failure of the just-concluded EU summit in Corfu, to find a replacement to outgoing Commission President Jacques Delors. "Eleven of the 12 member states backed my candidacy in Corfu. To pull out would put them in a difficult position and to bow to the British veto would render poor service to decision-making in the European Union," he said. "A consensus must emerge at the European Council on the name of the European president and the fact that Europe is blocked by Britain is not good, all the more so as Mr. (John) Major's opposition is motivated by domestic reasons," he said. "Mr. Major has chosen to reinforce his domestic position rather than bar for Europe by going for consensus and that is a problem," he said. "I shall not change my convictions because they are not to Mr. Major's liking," he also said.

Fires threaten homes in California

WRIGHTWOOD, California (AFP) — Forest fires swept through the Los Angeles region over the weekend destroying nearly 1,500 hectares (3,700 acres) and threatening about 100 homes, officials here said Sunday. They said about a dozen homes were destroyed in the Pico Hills neighbourhood Saturday and residents were evacuated from the region as advancing flames fanned by warm winds threatened additional destruction. Some 600 firefighters were called in to battle the blaze assisted by bulldozers, helicopters and specially-equipped planes. Last autumn, fires ravaged the southern California region destroying thousands of hectares (acres) and hundreds of homes.

U.S. may leave forces in Panama

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras (AFP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, wrapping up a two-day visit to Panama Saturday, said the United States might leave forces in the canal zone if asked by the Panamanian government. The United States is poised to begin pulling out about 40 per cent of the 10,000 troops stationed there in the next 18 months. Under the Panama Canal Treaties, Washington has agreed to remove all forces and turn over all military installations to Panama by the end of 1999. "We will meet our treaty commitments, which call for us to leave in the year 2000," Mr. Perry said. "If the Panamanian government requests us to stay on, for reasons of, for example, regional stability, that's something we would certainly consider." Washington's top concerns remain stability in the Central American region and a reduction in drug activities in the area, Mr. Perry said. If satisfied with Panama's policies on those issues, Mr. Perry said, the United States would be "in a positive position to come forward and consider such negotiations." But he added that such developments are "ahead of us by a good many years."



HOW ABOUT A SWIM? A young boy plays in floodwaters in Guangzhou, the capital of southern China's Guangdong province. The death toll in the province stood at 210 after two weeks of flooding. Most of the loss of life occurred in the poorer farming regions in the northern and western part of the province where rainfall was the heaviest (AFP photo).

'Authentic' Mussolini diaries discovered — paper

LONDON (AFP) — The diaries of the Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini have surfaced in London, where they have been authenticated by British experts, the Sunday Telegraph paper reported.

The five volumes covering the period 1935 to 1939 were found recently in a household suitcase by an unidentified Italian businessman, son of an anti-fascist partisan, the paper says.

He gave them to a family friend, the retired film director Sir Anthony Havelock-Allan.

And Italian history specialist Denis Mack Smith of All Souls College Oxford have declared the diaries authentic.

"I've come to the definite conclusion that the diaries are genuine," Mr. Barker, an expert in forged documents, is quoted as saying.

But the find is sure to create controversy, given the resurgence of neo-fascism in Italy, and revive memories of the so-called Hitler Diaries which were published in Britain by the Sunday Times.

Under Italian law the copyright of such a document would fall to Mussolini's heirs until next April, the 50th anniversary of his death.

Caniggia blasts Argentina past Nigeria into 2nd round

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AFP) — Italian-based star Claudio Caniggia scored an historic goal then added a second as Argentina beat native Nigeria 2-1 and "eased into the second round of the World Cup here Saturday.

The double strike by the AS Roma striker gave Argentina a 2-1 lead at half-time which the wily two-times world champions never relinquished.

With the scores locked at 1-1, Caniggia put Argentina ahead in the 28th minute with a splendid, curling shot into the top right hand corner of the net after Diego Maradona put him through.

His first goal, which put Argentina level at 1-1 only seven minutes earlier, was the 1,500th goal in World Cup history, since the first tournament way back in 1930.

The Nigerians opened the match the breathless pace and earned their reward in the eighth minute when midfielder Samson Siasia was put clear by Rashidi Yekini, African footballer of the year.

The powerful striker burst through two tackles and Siasia, running in on the through ball, lobbed keeper Luis Islas from 15 metres.

Nigeria were extremely lucky to have 11 men on the field, thanks to an appalling error by Swedish referee Bo Karlsson.

He booked the wrong man in the 14th minute when he gave Sunday Oliseh the yellow card for a foul instead of the real offender Austin Eguavoen.

Eguavoen, the 28-year-old Belgium-based defender, brought down Caniggia and was handed what should have been his second yellow card, and an automatic sending off, in the 20th minute.

Argentina, on top in the second half, were never really comfortably in control, with the fierce Nigerians capable of breaking out and scoring at any time. The forward line of Yekini, Dan Amokachi and Emmanuel Amunike, all based in Europe, never stopped probing a stretched defence.

Yekini almost hit the equaliser in the 73rd minute after a brilliant break by Sunday Oliseh, the 19-year-old FC Liege forward, but the big striker was off target.

It was Argentina who booked the more dangerous when Diego Simeone latched on to a free-kick lobbed over



Argentina midfielder Diego Simeone (L) passes Nigerian Emmanuel Amunike on the pitch of Foxboro Stadium outside Boston Saturday (AFP)

the defensive wall by Maradona after 55 minutes. But under pressure from goalkeeper Peter Rufai, he shot the side netting.

A minute later in a pulsating game, Mutiu Adegboye, the 23-year-old midfielder for Racing Santander in Spain, almost scored with his first touch after replacing Siasia in the 56th minute. But his shot with only the keeper to beat, was wildly over the bar.

Argentina, two-times World Cup winners, were rocked back on their heels when they went behind in the first half, but their experience and composure was finally to tell when Caniggia lunged in on a rebound after keeper Paul Rufai was unable to hold a Gabriel Batistuta free kick.

Argentina's 1990 World Cup top scorer tucked the ball away for his first World Cup goal since the semi-final in Rome four years ago. He only returned to international football in May after a 13-month ban for cocaine use.

Karlsson compounded his errors by disallowing Batistuta's 12th minute score because Argentina took the free-kick too quickly.

Eguavoen tested Islas with a fierce shot from 20 metres but, cleared Oscar Ruggeri's header off the line.

And in the closing stages Maradona drifted through the Nigerian defence to cross across the face of an empty goal with Batistuta just too late coming in.

Maradona said afterwards he was getting fitter with every match. "I did a lot of running and I thank the Lord for giving me such good legs," said the 33-year-old.

"I dedicate this win to the Argentine people. I love you," he told an Argentine TV interviewer.

Salvatore Carmando probably has something to do with Maradona's form. He was his physiotherapist when Maradona was with the Italian club Napoli and the Argentine FA brought him over to work on the great man's legs.

"There was a lot of work to do but he's 90 per cent fit now," Carmando said.

Caniggia said it had been a hard match.

"But the players had a great game. I have a feeling great things are to come," he added.

Nigeria's Dutch coach, 54-year-old Clemens Westerhof, was scornful of Swedish referee Bo Karlsson's handling of the game.

"He was excellent, quiet and cool — but he must be a distant relative of Maradona," he said.

"We lacked the experience to beat Argentina today, but maybe he lacked experience too."

Defender Austin Eguavoen, who came close to being sent off in the game but was spared by a case of mistaken identity, said: "The referee was unbelievable. He was terrible, we couldn't touch anybody."

The 28-year-old vice-captain who plays with Courtrai in Belgium, was blown up for more than half a dozen fouls in the game.

Midfielder Dan Amokachi, the 21-year-old who plays for Bruges in Belgium, added to the chorus of disapproval.

"The referee was not at his best today. Whenever Maradona, Caniggia or Redondo took a tumble, he blew for a foul."

Argentina boss Alfio Basile slammed Nigeria for rough-house tactics, and believes Karlsson was too soft.

"I have misgivings about the refereeing. Four or five of my players are quite beat up after the game, he said, mentioning Sensini, Caceres, Simeone, Maradona and Caniggia.

He said he was unsure whether they would be able to play in Argentina's next match against Bulgaria in Dallas Thursday.

The Vietnamese want a World Cup every year

HANOI (AFP) — The Vietnamese government is turning a blind eye to the detrimental effects of the World Cup which has hit productivity and turned working hours upside down.

Betting has increased, the price of colour television sets has shot up and civil servants are turning up late for work and going home early.

But one young shopkeeper summed up the passion that the World Cup has stirred since it was introduced to the United States. "It's like the United States," he said.

He said that in the United States, people would not work if they were not paid, but in Vietnam, they would not work if they were not paid and they were not paid.

He said that in the United States, people would not work if they were not paid, but in Vietnam, they would not work if they were not paid and they were not paid.

National television has organised, for the first time, a competition to predict the best striker and the world champion team. The prize is a princely \$10,000. But newspapers have followed national television's example.

Another first is the broadcast by Vietnam's only television channel of all 52 matches, thanks to a satellite agreement with a Malaysian company.

In recent weeks, the price of colour televisions has jumped \$10 to \$20, slightly less than 10 per cent, and well-off families have traded in their 35-centimetre (14-inch) sets for larger screens.

With the arrival of television in most urban homes, streets are quieter than during previous World Cups when half the people in the street used to cluster around television sets belonging to

their wealthier neighbours and comment on the proceedings and roar at the action.

Today, families gather in their homes with tea, beer and cigarettes to follow the games.

That does not, however, prevent street vendors, soup stall merchants, cigarette and candy sellers from working until late at night. Several cafes and restaurants in the capital are remaining open unusually long hours — until 2 a.m. State stores, which open early, are deserted.

Given the 12-hour time zone difference with the United States, Vietnam is living at a slower pace. The huge mass of civil servants usually arrives at work late, after 3:30 a.m., at the end of the World Cup broadcasts. They leave in mid-afternoon to nap before another sleepless night of football watching.

The government is tolerant — department heads let employees spend half an hour discussing the previous night's matches before they begin work.

Productivity is not the only thing that suffers. Audiences for films, plays and operas are nonexistent. Even city swimming pools are emptier than usual complain hotel managers, who hope reservations will rise again in mid-July, after the final.

The Vietnamese, whose national side is one of the weakest in Asia, have become eclectic fans.

Traditionally supporters of France, the former colonial power, which was eliminated before the finals, and of Russia, which has not performed well in the United States, the Vietnamese have gone crazy for South Korea, "the pride of Asian football," according to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.



Saudi Arabia's Saeed Al Owairan and Morocco's Taher El Khalef go up for a header during their World Cup Group F match Saturday at Giants Stadium. The Gulf kingdom claimed a 2-1 win over Morocco (AFP photo)

Saudis elated by victory

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Saudi fans erupted in joy Saturday when their team upset Morocco 2-1 and stayed in contention for a second-round berth at the World Cup soccer tournament.

"With a little luck, we'll reach the round of 16," said Abdullah Omar of Riyadh, as countrymen waved green flags and staged impromptu dances in the parking lot of Giants Stadium.

Saudi fans were greatly outnumbered by pro-Moroccan spectators in the crowd of 72,404 on a hot and humid afternoon. But their team came through with two first-half goals, despite playing without several stars, including injured captain Majed Mohammad, a midfielder.

The Saudis may need one more point for their match next Wednesday against Belgium in Washington to advance to the second round.

But some fans from the desert kingdom said three points from the victory over Morocco might prove to be enough.

"Look at the other first-round groups. We could even go through with just three points," said a Saudi fan who gave his name as Turki, a graduate student at Georgetown University in Washington.

"We used to be known as a camel country. But now we're good at soccer. We almost beat the Netherlands," he said, referring to the 2-1 loss last Monday in which the Saudis held a 1-0 lead.

Omar, a Saudi national guardsman, praised the skillful play of teams from developing countries at the 1994 World Cup.

"In this tournament, you might even see a third world team like Nigeria advance to the quarterfinals," he said. "Yes, I think there will be surprises."

Moroccan fans, while downcast by the defeat, acknowledged their team had been outplayed by the Saudis and lacked cohesion.

"The Saudis played well. They were very tough," said Falah Karim of Casablanca. "But it was like losing to brothers."

Saudis' royal show

NEW YORK (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's first World Cup triumph, a 2-1 success over Morocco in Group F here on Saturday, was a royal affair for both sides.

In attendance for the first meeting of Arab nations at the finals were three Saudi princes — their ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, and Saudi soccer federation

members Prince Sultan Bin Fahd and Prince Khalid Bin Saud.

Trying to level things up for the Moroccans was Princess Ala Loui M'Daghri.

Prince Bandar saw the players in the dressing room afterwards and said: "Some of them were crying and some were praying."

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Bickering Germans told to shut up and play football

...LLAS, Texas (AFP) — Bickering Germany have been ordered by coach Berti Vogts to shut up and play football when they meet South Korea in their final Group C match here Monday.

Although Germany have almost certainly qualified for the next round thanks to a win over Bolivia and a draw with Spain, Vogts has been far from impressed by his team's play.

He has also been angered by constant bickering amongst the players about who is to blame for their lacklustre play to date.

"People talk about playing football. Well there has not been much play by my team as far as I am concerned," complained Vogts only hours after Germany's arrival here Saturday.

"The players have to show that on the field they are enjoying themselves. They have to play better football."

The team is lacking temperament and must move quicker on the ball," he added.

Vogts desperately wants to win the group and ensure a return to Chicago but his plans have been upset by an injury to defender Thomas Strunz.

Strunz suffered a recurrence of a thigh injury during a light work-out Saturday morning before the team left for Dallas. "It is not serious but it's bad enough to put him in doubt," said Vogts.

On paper Germany should have no problem in disposing of the Koreans whose coach, Kim Ho, continues to believe his team, who must win if they are to survive, can pull off what would be the upset of the tournament to date.

The 49-year-old Kim admits Germany have the experience but he is banking on his side's youth and speed.

"Speed is our secret weapon," said Ho. "If we can hold Germany for 75 minutes



Today's matches

Group C: Bolivia vs. Spain in Chicago at 23:00 Amman time.
Group C: Germany vs. South Korea in Dallas at 23:00 Amman time.

then we can win. We will be stronger than Germany in the final 15 minutes, we are in better physical shape than them," said Kim.

Ho's dream may not be so unreal. Vogts admits his team is having trouble scoring. In the opening game



German players, from L-R: Juergen Klinsman, Andreas Moeller, Rudi Voeller and Thomas Hassler during the team training in the grounds of the Southern Methodist University Saturday. Coach Berti Vogts is

seemingly unhappy with the teams performance and has ordered the players to stop bickering and play football. They are due to meet South Korea Monday (AFP photo).

against Bolivia they won 1-0 and could only manage a 1-1 draw with Spain, both goals coming from Jurgen Klinsmann.

"We must create better goalscoring chances. It is up

to the midfield to create the chances," said Vogts.

In the other final Group C match, being played at the same time in Chicago, Spain play Bolivia. If both Spain

and South Korea win Monday, Germany would end up third in the group and although their four points should see them into the next round it would be a disaster for the defending champions.

The defeat of Graf livens up women's event at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (R) — The astonishing defeat of Steffi Graf in Wimbledon's first round provided a second shot of adrenalin desperately needed by a women's game so recently in a state of terminal decline.

And it kick-started a train of upsets which gave Wimbledon what most observers regard as the best first week it has had in many years.

Graf became the first women's titleholder to be defeated in the first round when, after curtsying to the royal box as she entered Wimbledon's famed centre court Tuesday, she bowed to American Lori McNeil 7-5 7-6.

Yet cataclysmic though it may have been, it was not entirely surprising given McNeil's grass-court pedigree and particularly in the light of Graf's 6-2 6-2 trouncing by Mary Pierce in the French Open semifinals a few weeks earlier.

Pierce's arrival as a major player was the biggest boost for the women's game since the stabbing of Monica Seles 13 months earlier had knocked the Yugoslav out of the sport — perhaps permanently — and elevated Graf to a position of dominance she retained until Paris.

So when the 19-year-old Frenchwoman withdrew from Wimbledon at the 11th hour for reasons she refused to specify but which may have resulted from renewed problems with her father Jim, the tournament was apparently robbed of its savior.

It was left to McNeil, a 30-year-old player from Houston, Texas who had won the Birmingham event 10 days earlier, to restore the lustre lost when Pierce departed.

It was the first time in nine years that Graf had lost two successive matches on tour and it happened after she had

begun the year in outstanding fashion.

The 25-year-old German captured the Australian Open in January to become only the second woman to hold all four Grand Slam titles in a non-calendar year. Martina Navratilova was the first.

Graf went on to win her next four tournaments as well and only in the final of the last one did she drop her first set of the year, to Natalia Zvereva of Belarus at the Lipton final in Florida.

Then Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario beat her in the Hamburg final before the French Open.

Good though it was for the women's game, Graf's loss in difficult, rain-interrupted conditions here Tuesday brought her sympathy from many quarters.

Most prominently, it came from the woman who could turn out to be the main beneficiary of her demise, Navratilova.

Even though she would love nothing better than a 10th Wimbledon singles title to take into her retirement, the 37-year-old Czech-born American was saddened by Graf's defeat.

"I had mixed feelings about Steffi losing. I still do," she said two days later.

"My dream really was to play her in the final. But I slept badly after she lost."

"I kept empathising so much with what she must be going through because I certainly went through it a few times this year."

With five other women's seeds also ousted during the first week, French Open champion Sanchez-Vicario is now the favourite with the bookmakers.

But Navratilova carries the emotional hopes of millions into her rough-looking fourth-round match with Helena Sukova Monday.

Bolivia to have their last chance

CHICAGO (AFP) — Bolivia, who must beat Spain Monday to have even a chance of advancing in the World Cup, are struggling to reorganise with three key players banned and half a dozen others injured.

Bolivian coach Xabier Azkargorta will be without forward Marco Etcheverry, who was already banned after being sent off in the opening defeat by Germany.

He lost two more players in the goalless draw with South Korea, with Luis Cristaldo being sent off and Julio Baldivieso collecting his second booking.

In addition, injuries have been piling up. Midfielder Erwin Sanchez has a foot injury and forward William Ramallo a nagging ankle injury. Carlos Borja had spike marks on one calf, but is expected to play, as are the hobbling Vladimir Soria and Gustavo Quinteros.

Azkargorta has laid the blame for some of his problems at the feet of World Cup referees. He said small coun-

tries like Bolivia had been penalised more than powerhouses like Germany and Spain, who are one and two in Group C.

"In this World Cup, the poor countries were never going to have it easy," he said. "I don't understand the politics, but we are ready for anything."

But he knows he is running out of matches.

"In the first game, we wanted to show the world we can play against anybody," he said of the tournament's opener against defending champions Germany. "But we can't just be satisfied with a good showing. We need results. We need a win."

Spain, who drew 1-1 with Germany and 2-2 with Korea, are under slightly less pressure, though coach Javier Clemente warned his players against letting down their guard.

"We must not fall asleep and let Bolivia surprise us," he said.

The Spanish have not been particularly impressive in

their two draws. They let a 2-0 lead evaporate against Korea, and only a lucky goal from Andoni Goikoetxea — who was trying to cross, not score — gave them the draw against the Germans.

Clemente will again be short of one first-choice defender, with Miguel Nadal still serving out a two-match ban imposed after he was sent off against Korea.

Five other Spaniards have one booking apiece, but Clemente said they could not let that affect their play Monday.

Probable teams:

Spain: Andoni Zubizarreta (capt); Albert Ferrer, Rafael Alkorta, Abeldarro, Sergi Jose Guardiola, Jose Luis Caminero, Fernando Hierro, Luis Enrique, Andoni Goikoetxea, Julio Salinas
Bolivia: Carlos Trucco; Marco Sandy, Miguel Rimba, Gustavo Quinteros, Carlos Borja, Milton Melgar (capt), Vladimir Soria, Erwin Sanchez, Alvaro Pena, William Ramallo, Jaime Moreno.

FIFA enters Cameroon dispute

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Football's world governing body FIFA have intervened in Cameroon's World Cup pay dispute.

FIFA Secretary Sepp Blatter said they had not been alarmed at players' threats they would boycott Friday's game against Brazil but were puzzled by the figure being handed out.

"Cameroon received \$200,000 for qualifying and are getting \$9,000 a day for expenses," he said.

Cameroon's players, who claimed they had not been paid any promised bonuses, called off their threat when the Cameroon government sent two ministers with nearly \$1 million in cash to settle the row.

Meanwhile, Cameroon goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell Saturday announced he was quitting the troubled national side and said his career was finished.

Italian captain dismissed following knee surgery

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Italy's captain-sweeper Franco Baresi was quickly sent home from hospital following arthroscopic knee surgery Saturday but doctors were cautious that he would recover in time to resume playing in the World Cup.

Italian team doctor Andrea Ferretti said Saturday that Baresi's rehabilitation may take anything between 15 to 60 days, thus making impossible any prediction on whether he would return to action before the end of the competition.

The final of the one-month competition is scheduled in Pasadena July 17.

The 34-year-old defender left the Lenox Hill Hospital in New York at dawn Saturday, about 12 hours after an operation to remove cartilage from his right knee. Baresi damaged the joint during Thursday's game against Norway, which Italy won 1-0.

"The player does not feel any pain and can walk with-

out crutches," Ferretti said. "The length of recovery depends on many factors, but the range of rehabilitation after such kind of operations is usually between 15 to 60 days."

"Age is not an important factor."

Alessandro Costacurta, Baresi's defensive partner with AC Milan and the national team, said Saturday that he hoped that "Franco can make the final, if we qualify."

"He's a very important player for the team, but we must be resigned to do without him in the next games," Costacurta said.

Italy will have to reshuffle its defence for Tuesday's crucial match against Mexico in Washington as another key defender, Paolo Maldini, is nursing a strained right ankle.

"Maldini is improving, but I believe he could hardly play against Mexico," Ferretti said.

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BRIDGE WORLD BARGAIN

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A 7 6 4

♥ 5 2

♦ Q J 7

♣ 8 6 3 2

WEST EAST

♠ J 8 5 2 ♠ K 10 9 3

♥ Q 6 5 4 3 ♥ 8 7 6 4

♦ 9 7 4 ♦ 10 8

♣ 9 7 4 ♣ Q J 10

SOUTH

♠ A K J 10 9 3

♥ A K 2

♦ A K 5

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

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One declarer took the percentage play—down one. The other "reasoned that ducking the opening lead would give him two chances. The opening lead might be away from the spade king (in which case the spade ace would provide a discard for the losing club in hand), or South might be able to pick up the heart queen with one finesse. Reasonably enough, declarer played low from dummy at trick one, losing to the spade king. Now having only one entry to dummy, he cashed the heart ace before finessing, making the slam."

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King calls for trilateral talks

(Continued from page 1)

birth, in shaping their present and future, and the adherence to the democratic option, respect for political pluralism, human rights" are

the key guiding elements of the Kingdom's course, he added. "Jordan will serve not only as a political example but also as a model in democratic approach, respect for human rights and political pluralism," the King said.

Huge quantities of drugs burnt

(Continued from page 1)

ity Department's division charged with combating narcotics, told Jordan Television that 4,586 kilos of hashish, 11,315 kilos of heroin, 12.7 kilos of opium and 866,615 drug pills along with 134 saplings of cannabis were burnt at the cement factory.

Brig. Ensour told the Jordan Times that these drugs were seized in Jordan in 74 cases over the past two years, but the drugs were mainly passing through Jordan on their way to be used in other

countries. The department has established a centre at Jabal Weibdeh where drug users are treated for up to two months. Once released the addicts are kept under surveillance and have to report to the centre twice a week for urine tests and constant medical checkups to ensure that they have not returned to their old habits, Brig. Ensour said.

He said that the centre has so far rehabilitated 15 addicts.

Shaath rejects probe findings

(Continued from page 1)

guards were absent, including three who overslept. The panel left it up to the army to file disciplinary charges.

Goldstein, a physician who immigrated from New York City, walked into the mosque dressed in his army reserve uniform and opened fire with a Galil assault rifle on rows of worshippers.

"The massacre... was a base and murderous act in which innocent people bending in prayer to their maker were killed," said the report. "The massacre was one of the harshest expressions of the Jewish-Arab conflict."

The report said 29 Palestinians were killed and 125 wounded. Independent checks with hospitals and family members indicated 30 had died, but there was confusion over names from the beginning.

The commission determined that Goldstein was the lone shooter. It discounted testimony by Muslim worshippers that shots were fired from more than one weapon and statements by two army guards that suggested another man carried the massacre weapon into the tomb.

"We were not presented with credible proof that he (Goldstein) was helped while carrying out the killing... nor was it proven to us that he had secret partners," said the commission headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Meir Shamgar.

In Hebron, Mayor Mustafa Natshe said the report did not address the basic problems that allowed Goldstein to operate freely — the presence of 415 Israeli settlers among 110,000 Palestinians.

"The climate of threats and violence is what allowed Goldstein to do what he did," said Mr. Natshe. "The settlers take the law into their own hands. The army did not stop the settler lawlessness."

Ahmad Tibi, a PLO adviser, said the politicians responsible for the failure to

protect the worshippers were not named in the investigation.

"I think this report will not change the certain possibility that in the future such an incident could occur in the West Bank," he said.

Liberal legislator Dedi Zucker said the report "looks to me like an attempt to wash our hands." Goldstein, he said, "knew that this was a land without law where there was a clear preference for settlers for many years."

Settler leaders praised the report for asserting that Goldstein acted alone, but criticised the panel's recommendation that Jews no longer be permitted to enter the site armed, saying they needed to carry weapons for "self-defence."

The commission cited some lapses in enforcing the law, including police refusal to investigate settler vigilantes unless the Palestinian victim filed a complaint. Most Palestinians are intimidated by the settlers or believe their complaint will lead to nothing, and many cases were not investigated.

The panel also urged the army to clarify open-fire orders to specify that soldiers could stop settlers from committing serious crimes. Troops had testified that even if they had seen Goldstein shooting their orders barred from firing at other Jews.

In six weeks of hearings, the commission heard 106 witnesses in 31 sessions, many of them televised.

In response to the massacre, Israel jailed the leadership of the anti-Arab Kach movement without trial and seized the arms of a few Jewish settlers. Goldstein, a physician, was a Kach activist.

After the massacre, Middle East peace talks were suspended for several weeks. Israel and the PLO returned to the negotiating table and on May 4 signed an accord on Palestinian autonomy.

Palestinians hold meeting

(Continued from page 1)

dispute, including border crossings, the size of the self-rule enclave of Jericho and the prisoners.

"There are about 26 questions that have been postponed at the Cairo agree-

ment," Dr. Shaath told reporters.

The disputed points in the Israeli-PLO accord mainly centre on the borders of the self-rule enclaves of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Bosnian forces make headway despite ceasefire

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian government forces made substantial gains in an offensive against separatist Serb positions in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina, leaving the current truce in tatters, a U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman said Sunday.

The fighting, in which at least 1,700 artillery shells were fired Saturday, has been concentrated around Mount Ozren, where the Serbs have evacuated several villages in the face of the Bosnian offensive, Eric Chaperon said.

The offensive, launched in midweek, has focused on Zavidovici and Ribnica, to the south of the Ozren range, and on Gracanica, to the north. The intensity of the fighting has increased day by day, the spokesman said.

Securing Mount Ozren would ease communications between the government-held towns of Zenica and Tuzla in preparation for an onslaught on the strategic Posavina corridor, a vital Serb-held strip of territory across northern Bosnia that links the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka and Serbia proper.

U.N. observers have had to follow the progress of the fighting mostly from the air, since both sides have denied them access to the region. A one-month truce came into effect on June 10 to enable international mediators to prepare a partition plan that would allocate 49 per cent of Bosnia territory to the Serbs, with 51 per cent going to a newly-formed Croat-Muslim federation.

U.N. envoy Yasushi Akashi was unable to gain agreement by the two sides for UNPROFOR peacekeepers to oversee the truce or for the number of U.N. military observers to be increased. He is shortly to present a report to the two sides detailing the violations of the Geneva truce.

A contact group formed by the United Nations, the United States, Russia and the European Union aims to present its partition plan to the Bosnian and Serb sides by the truce expiry date of July 10.

during the Naples summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations, which Russia is also to attend.

The UNPROFOR chief to Bosnia, General Michael Rose, has attempted but failed to organise a meeting between Bosnian army and Serb military leaders to discuss the truce.

He failed also to secure a meeting Sunday in which military leaders of the two sides in the Sarajevo region were to discuss bringing an end to the recent upsurge in sniper activity in the capital.

That apparently was not enough for the Serbs, who had been agreeable to a meeting of top officials. Even so, it was uncertain whether Serb commander General Ratko Mladic would have attended. U.N. officials said earlier that they could not reach him.

Mr. Akashi expressed hope that the talks could be held later. "Somehow, the parties did not think that today is a very convenient day..." he said in the Croatian port of Split. "The meeting is simply postponed, not cancelled."

There are signs that Bosnia's government has little interest in a ceasefire that could lead to a settlement it considers unfair and unenforceable.

After long being on the defensive against better-armed Serbs, government forces have made modest gains recently. An agreement to end hostilities with Bosnian Croats and form a federation with them also has boosted morale and allowed the government to focus on the Serbs.

General Rasim Delic, the Bosnian army leader, has urged the Muslim-Croat federation in recent weeks to go on the offensive.

"Until now, we have been leading a defensive war, now we're going into another phase," he said in an interview published Friday in the Sarajevo daily Oslobođenje. He reiterated his call for a "war of liberation" and urged Croat and Muslim soldiers to "get out of the trenches and initiate the action."



YEMENI FIGHTER: A southern Yemeni soldier hangs onto the grips of a heavy truck speeding through Aden on patrol on Sunday (AFP photo)

Aziz heads for papal audience in bid for support against sanctions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz left for Rome on Sunday for a meeting with Pope John Paul II to further Baghdad's diplomatic campaign for an end to the almost four-year-old international sanctions against Iraq.

Diplomats said the visit comes in response to an invitation from the Pope. Mr. Aziz arrived here from Baghdad late Saturday and left aboard a regular flight to Rome.

Mr. Aziz, Iraq's chief foreign affairs spokesman and confidant of President Saddam Hussein, is a Christian from northern Iraq. Foreign minister at that time, he was the pointman in Iraqi diplomacy during the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The diplomats said Mr. Aziz would seek to enlist the support of the Holy See in Iraq's push for a lifting of the international sanctions imposed against it following the invasion.

"The Iraqi government is highly hopeful that the Vatican will be strongly responsive to its appeal," said one diplomat. "Baghdad believes that the Pope's desire to meet

Mr. Aziz is the best indication of a fresh approach by the Roman Catholic Church to the plight of the Iraqi people suffering under the sanctions."

According to the diplomat, Mr. Aziz is expected to renew an Iraqi invitation to the Pontiff to visit Iraq. But such a visit is seen unlikely under the present circumstances, they added.

"The best scenario at this point is a papal appeal to the Roman Catholic Community to help Iraq through its ordeal, but such an appeal will not have any political overtones," said the diplomat.

Several senior envoys of the Roman Catholic Church have visited Iraq during the Gulf crisis and after the war over Kuwait, and the church's welfare organisations are also extending relief to Iraqis.

The Vatican opposes economic sanctions as a tool in international relations since the poor are the worst affected in trade embargos against governments. That is the main element behind Iraq's approach to the Pope. The Polish-born Pope had sought in vain to avert the Gulf war over Kuwait and expressed an interest in visiting Iraq as part of his media-

tion. But Western influence and pressure were seen to have dissuaded him from undertaking such a trip, particularly against the backdrop of suggestions that such a visit would have been interpreted as support for Iraq.

"Iraq would like the Pope to see for himself the suffering of its people and the impact of the sanctions," said the diplomat, noting that official Iraqi figures say more than 400,000 people have died as direct and indirect results of the sweeping embargo, which, among things, bans Iraqi oil exports, the mainstay income of the government.

Despite the American-led military eviction of Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991, the sanctions remain in place pending Baghdad's compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms.

U.N. team have formally acknowledged that Iraq has largely met with the ceasefire terms, but an easing of the sanctions seems unlikely, given the American and British insistence on several other conditions, including Baghdad's recognition of new U.N.-drawn borders of Kuwait and an end to what Washington and London see as Iraqi government oppression of Iraqi Shi'ites and Kurds.

Iran says plan to bomb mosque thwarted

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian police have arrested an alleged member of Iran's most dissident group on suspicion of attempting to detonate a bomb at a mosque in southeast Iran, Tehran Radio said Sunday.

The group, the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, immediately issued a statement from its Paris office denying any connection with the arrested man and dubbing the government claims "preposterous lies."

It said the announcement was part of "the mullahs' hysterical week-long propaganda to attribute the criminal explosion at Imam Reza's shrine to the Mujahideen..."

"The arrest came nearly a week after a bomb ripped through a mosque in the holy city of Mashhad in northeast Iran, killing 26 people and

wounding 70. Police also blamed that bombing on the Mujahideen, which denied involvement.

The state-run radio said police arrested Bahram Abbas-Zadeh on Thursday and accused him of planning to plant a bomb at the Makki mosque in Zahedan, 1,100 kilometres southeast of Tehran.

He was arrested on the basis of information given by a man held in connection with the Mashhad bombing, the radio said. Iranian authorities say they have arrested a suspect in the June 20 attack, but have given no details.

In the past, the Mujahideen has been responsible for a number of bombing attacks but it has targeted mainly government leaders or installations, not civilians.

A religious motive for the Mashhad bombing, and the reported bombing attempt in Zahedan, cannot be ruled out.

In February, riots broke out in Zahedan, apparently following rumours that authorities had demolished a mosque belonging to the Sunni Muslim minority in Suni-had.

More than 90 per cent of Iran's 60 million population belongs to the rival Shiite branch of Islam.

Several small bombs have exploded in Tehran in recent months. Iran has blamed Iraq, its enemy in the 1980-88 Gulf war, and the Mujahideen, which is based in Iraq.

An official said Sunday Iran was to close the north-western part of its border with Iraq to keep out rebels and smugglers.

The governor of West Azerbaijan province, Ali Saadat, told the official Iranian news agency IRNA units of the Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) would be stationed along the border in the province to "prevent illegal crossings."

He did not say when the 200-kilometre border strip would be closed.

An "informed source" quoted by IRNA said one person was injured when he stepped on a mine while trying to cross illegally through the Baneh border region in Kurdistan province, south of West Azerbaijan. The source did not say when the incident happened.

The authorities recently planted mines along the country's western borders to keep out rebels and smugglers, IRNA said.

Khaless says he is Afghan president

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghan religious leader Yunus Khaless has declared himself interim president of war-ravaged Afghanistan, saying that he had been assured of support by army commanders and Muslim scholars.

"I have not consulted leaders of other Afghan factions because all their decisions in the past proved harmful for the country," he said in a statement quoted Sunday by his Hezb-e-Islami faction.

The 18-month term of embattled President Burhanuddin Rabbani expires on Tuesday. "I want to prevent the (nation's) boat from sinking," Mr. Khaless said.

Haunting colonial legacy and geographic contradictions

This is the third in a series of reports filed by the writer after a two-day trip through areas in close proximity to Jordanian territory occupied by Israel and the subject of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations starting next month.

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
UMM QAIS — Looking at the commanding Golan Heights to the right, Lake Tiberias in front and the lush Jordan Valley to the left, one could not but wonder how the close-knit area could have been cut into pieces in the first place. It is difficult to believe that national boundaries, imposed or otherwise, could exist in an area where geographical overlappings and interdependence for survival are its outstanding features.

But then, that was the legacy that Western colonial powers decided to grant the region, with the magnanimous gesture of a bonus — an entity bent upon expansion.

Based on the 1928 maps of the British mandate of Palestine, no Jordanian land is occupied by Israel north of the Dead Sea ex-

cept 830 dunums (0.83 square kilometres) at the confluence point of the Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers, down to the south from Umm Qais.

To the right of Umm Qais is the southern part of Syria's Golan Heights. An Israeli-built road from Lake Tiberias winds through the strategic mountainous area and disappears into the north to enter Israeli settlements on the Golan.

Parts of Lake Tiberias could be seen from the Umm Qais vantage point. A close look with a powerful binoculars shows farmhands at work above the lake.

To the left is the greenery of both Jordan and Israel with very little visible sign to indicate where the dividing line is.

A drive down from Umm Qais northwards down the valley brings up the Yar-

mouk River, the border between Jordan and Israel as set by the British mandate maps. It is a military area and access is limited to local residents and those with special permits.

On the other side of the river — which resembles a mini canyon — is also the Golan Heights. The ever-present Israeli border fence runs alongside a wide, well-built road (judging from the traffic) which is constantly patrolled by the Israeli army, although it looks impossible for anyone to infiltrate, given the steep cliff that borders the river on both sides.

Further upstream is a shattered steel bridge that was once part of a railroad that ran from Haifa in Palestine to Iraq passing through Syria.

Given that the features of the area offered a natural reservoir, Jordan wanted to build a dam in the area in the mid-60s, said Munther Haddadin, a senior Jordanian peace

negotiator, who accompanied local reporters on a tour of the borders last week.

Arab response to the plan to build the dam, named "Khaled Ben Walid" was at best lukewarm, and the whole project had to be shelved when Israel seized the other (Syrian) bank of the River Yarmouk in the 1967 war.

However, Jordan kept alive the idea of harnessing Yarmouk waters, culminating in the mid-80s in a plan to build Al Wahdah dam further upstream at a point called Makharem closer to where the Yarmouk River begins, away from the occupied Golan Heights.

Israeli arguments based on its riparian "rights" to Yarmouk waters foiled the project. The option was brought back to the table in the wake of the Middle East peace process launched 30 months ago in Madrid. Prospects of implementing the project are not yet clear.

However, the first priority of Jordan is to secure Israeli agreement to respecting the Kingdom's rights for a fair share of the area's waters, said Dr. Haddadin, the Kingdom's top-most expert in water.

Dr. Haddadin, who led the media team on a tour last week near the borders, said that apart from its share that was tacitly agreed upon three decades ago, Israel was now diverting Yarmouk water all along the river before it joins the River Jordan.

The 0.83 square kilometres of Jordanian territory occupied by Israel in the north lies in a triangle where the two rivers meet. It could be clearly seen from a hill about 300 to 400 metres above, overlooking the confluence of Yarmouk and Jordan.

There cannot be any dispute over the Jordanian claim to the land, said Dr. Haddadin, pointing out that the mandate map shows that all territory on

the eastern side of Yarmouk is Jordanian. Israel has built a road that passes through the plot. It is obvious that the small stretch of the road saves Israel several kilometres of detour on its side of the River Jordan.

A blue and white Israeli bus escorted by an armoured personnel carrier passed laboured through the strip of land and disappeared westwards into Israeli territory as we watched from the hill where the Jordanian army maintains a watchtower.

The area is known as "Rothenburg" — named after a Jewish entrepreneur who was given concession by the Jewish Agency, which was the forerunner of the state of Israel — to build a hydroelectric plant there.

The plant, technically owned by the Palestine Electricity Company which later became the Israeli Electricity Company, used water diverted from the

Yarmouk to run its generators. It was totally damaged and looted during the 1948 war, but the towering structure still stands in Jordanian territory.

"This is enemy property in sovereign Jordanian land," said Dr. Haddadin gesturing to the plant and a large cluster of small barrack-type buildings where Rothenburg employees were housed. The total area is around 400 dunums.

Palm trees that withstood the 1948 war dot the site with charred and blackened trunks evidencing the intensity of the fighting in the area, where Arabs — including Jordanians, Syrians and Iraqis — fought the Israelis.

"We've left the entire area the way it was after the war and have not done anything to change the features of the property," Dr. Haddadin said. "We respect the rights of everyone and expect others to do so with ours."



Charles to cut royal link with church paper

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles plans to end the monarch's role as head of the Church of England when he becomes king, the Sunday Times newspaper said. The heir to the throne thinks the church should be disestablished because Britain is a multicultural, multi-faith society in which the Church of England has become a minority voice. "The Prince of Wales is planning to end the 450-year-old role of the monarch as head of the Church of England and defender of the faith," the newspaper said. It quoted the prince during a television interview as saying: "I happen to believe that the Catholic subjects of the sovereign are as important (as Protestants), not to mention the Islamic, Hindu and Zoroastrian." The Sunday Times said that although Prince Charles does not mention disestablishing the church in the interview, "it is clear he wishes to provoke a debate on the roles of church and monarchy. He also risks a rift with the queen, who is firmly in favour of the status quo."

Britain's monarch has been head of the Church of England since 1531 when Henry VIII broke ties with Rome when the pope refused to grant him a divorce. The two and a half hour interview by British journalist Jonathan Dimbleby promises to offer a candid view of the prince and is reported to touch on such sensitive subjects as his failed marriage to princess Diana and his relationship with close friend Camilla Parker Bowles. Critics say it is just an effort to improve the prince's popularity which has slumped badly since his separation from Princess Diana 18 months ago. In a separate report the People tabloid newspaper claims Princess Diana is planning a "revenge attack" with a television documentary prepared by Andrew Morton who wrote Diana: Her True Story. "ITV (television) has scheduled the Diana film for the first week in December — to coincide with the second anniversary of her public separation from Charles," the newspaper said.

Brazilian star opens 1994 jazz festival

NEW YORK (AP) — Fans who made their way through a tropical drizzle to Lincoln Centre heard a masterful performance by one of Brazil's most talented songwriters in a concert that marked the 1994 JVC Jazz Festival's opening. Milton Nascimento, a superstar singer-composer whose music has been widely adopted by American jazz musicians, set a high standard for the jazz festival's other performers, who will be appearing through July 2 around New York City. Nascimento was the headliner at a concert that was also supposed to feature the Spanish flamenco guitarist Paco Delucia. But Delucia was forced to cancel because of his father's death Wednesday. Festival promoters made a wide departure when they decided to replace Delucia's exuberant flamenco group with the soft sounds of the Howard Alden-Randy Sandke trumpet and guitar duo. The crowd, which took the news of Delucia's absence calmly, responded warmly to the much subtler artistry of Alden on the seven-string electric guitar and Sandke on trumpet. Their imaginative yet understated solos were a far cry from the blistering barrage of Delucia's guitar. Nevertheless, standing alone on stage, they nicely filled the deep recesses of Avery Fisher Hall. The man of the evening, however, was Nascimento, who maintains a powerful stage presence simply on the strength of his music, which was performed with great precision and verve by his seven-piece band. Nascimento used his acoustic guitar for occasional punctuation, but he generally performed with the guitar suspended from his shoulders and his arms extended, as if to embrace the audience. He sang exclusively in Portuguese, although he was backed by band members singing in English in Only A Dream In Rio, a song recorded with James Taylor on Nascimento's most recent album, Angelus.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذا من العراق" (This is from Iraq)